

St Dunstan's Review

Photograph: Bill Lyth

We couldn't do it without you!

VOLUNTEERS WHO regularly give up their time to provide assistance and friendship to St Dunstaners were feted for their continuing support on 11 December. Their contribution was toasted by Chairman Captain Michael Gordon-Lennox, RN and Chief Executive Robert Leader after St Dunstan's achieved the Investing in Volunteers Quality Standard.

The standard is a benchmark of the excellent work the charity does in partnership with volunteers. Although the standard was only recently awarded, some of the volunteers attending have been lending a helping hand, as guides, as readers, as friends, for several decades. Their contribution was also applauded by St Dunstaners in the lounge at Ovingdean.

Strictly in formation, please!



NOVEMBER'S DANCE NIGHT at St Dunstan's Ovingdean was led from the front by The Band of The Light Cavalry conducted by Captain Tony Adams. Magic moments peppered the evening such as some Sinatra-style singing from S/Sgt Ted Ashworth and birthday cheers for Peggy Wright. However, there was an electric sensation when St Dunstan's Formation Team were asked to take the floor for a rather elaborate salsa. Nobody missed a step!

From the Chairman



THE PROSPECT of a third centre for St Dunstan's has loomed for several months as numbers continue to increase and waiting lists begin to build up. After detailed studies by management and approval by the

Trustees, an offer was put in for a former private hospital in Llandudno, North Wales. The purchase was completed just before Christmas.

The third centre will provide similar facilities to Ovingdean but on a

smaller scale. However, it will not offer permanent residential accommodation. The location will serve both the north West and North East of the country. The building will hopefully come on stream sometime in 2009.

This is a very exciting and challenging moment for St Dunstan's. It will involve much continued preparation and work, especially in the area of fundraising!

LEAP INTO THE NEW YEAR WITH ST DUNSTAN'S

ALL THE BEST FOR 2008: Members of St Dunstan's staff throughout the country, both serving and retired, wish to thank all St Dunstaners, beneficiaries of the Diana Gubbay Trust, widows, widowers and their families for their cards and kind wishes received over the Christmas period. They wish you all a healthy and happy 2008.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Our thanks go to Sally Westlake, Joan Henlon, Lisa Coyle, and Jennifer Shannon for assistance in the production of St Dunstan's Review

St Dunstan's Review

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Noticeboard

St Dunstan's Calendar

FEBRUARY

Writers Forum	2
Shrove Tuesday	5
Indoor Bowling	8
Dancing Week (I)	10-16
Valentine's Day Masque	14
Indoor Bowling	15
Computer Club (I)	20-21
Indoor Bowling	22
Leap Day	29

MARCH

Writers Forum	1
Bowling Club (I)	2-15
Music Week	20-26
Good Friday	21
Easter Day	23
Indoor Bowling	24
Easter Monday	24

APRIL

RAF 90th Anniversary	1
Ex-POW Reunion	4-7
Writers Forum	5
Golf	12-13
Flora London Marathon	13
Widows' Week (I)	13-19
Indoor Bowling	21
Anzac Day	25
Masonic Weekend	25-28

DATE SET FOR SCOTLAND REUNION

ST DUNSTAN'S MAY DAY IN THE HIGHLANDS: The date for the Scotland Reunion is confirmed as 15 May.

NO RADIO MEETING IN FEBRUARY

STAY TUNED FOR UPDATES: St Dunstan's Amateur Radio Society will not be meeting at St Dunstan's Ovingdean this month. However, members will very likely be manning the net from their home stations. Details of future gatherings will be published when available.

ST DUNSTAN'S MASONS REMINDER

BOOK IN SOON PLEASE: Due to the limitation of accommodation at Ovingdean, St Dunstaners who are Freemasons are reminded to book in early for the Annual Meeting to be held 25-28 April. Any new St Dunstaner who is a Freemason is eligible to join once they have attended the Rehabilitation and Training Introduction course. Further particulars can be obtained from Ron Freer, 23 St Michael's Avenue, Cliftonville, Margate, Kent CT9 3UH. Tel: 01843 601421.

VALENTINE'S DAY MASQUERADE

MASQUES TO BE WORN AT DANCE: The Valentine's Day Dance at St Dunstan's Ovingdean will be a masquerade. Plans are afoot for prizes to be given for the most imaginative masques. The red jacketed members of the Band of the Adjutant General's Corps will be on duty to provide music throughout the night.

WELCOME TO ROVI ON DUTY

Tel: 01273 391447

E-mail: rovi@dunstan.org.uk

What is the ROVI on Duty service for?

Your Welfare Officer should normally be your first point of contact with St Dunstan's but the Duty ROVI system established in 2005 is the main point of contact for ROVI (Rehabilitation Officers for Visually Impaired People) enquiries.

The Duty ROVI service can help with enquiries such as:

- Equipment information and advice
- Requests for training
- Advice on aspects of the rehabilitation process

However, ROVI on Duty does not deal with St Dunstaners computer and general IT enquiries which are dealt with through a dedicated helpline number (01273 391432) where a message can be left on an answer-phone and by e-mail rovi@dunstan.org.uk.

As with all other areas of St Dunstan's the ROVI on Duty service aims to deliver an appropriate, efficient and high quality service provision to St Dunstaners. However the service is becoming increasingly busy and we are unable to guarantee a "Same Day" response to enquiries. While we aim at all times to provide a high quality service ROVI on duty is not an emergency service and it may on

occasion take a couple of days to deal with your enquiry. However please rest assured that we will help you as soon as possible.

Duty Surgery

We now have a Duty ROVI in the main lounge at Ovingdean from 9:15-9:45 am, Mondays to Thursdays every week. This offers the opportunity to talk to the ROVI on Duty first-hand and should enable us to manage your enquiries better, and more efficiently. We hope to be able to deal with most queries on the spot, but we can make appointments for later in the day or week if the need arises.

Contacting ROVI on Duty

By Phone

ROVI on duty can be contacted by calling direct on 01273 391447 or by calling the main switchboard at Ovingdean, Sheffield and Headquarters and asking for the ROVI on Duty. You will be asked to clearly leave your name and your home town details before being asked to leave a short message. This information is very important as it will help us to get your details ready for when calling you back.

By e-mail

ROVI on Duty can also be contacted by e-mail. Please e-mail to: rovi@dunstan.org.uk.

ROVI on Duty aims to deal with all enquiries as promptly and as efficiently as possible so please leave a clear and concise message and a daytime contact number included in the body of the text.

ST DUNSTAN'S GOLF CLUB READY TO TEE OFF FOR 2008

JOIN US ON THE GREEN: Are you a golfer, or were you a golfer who believes they have lost the ability to enjoy the game. Come and join us and find out how much you can still enjoy this healthy and active outdoor sport. We have a group of golfers of various degrees of sight and ability.

We are looking to extend our membership, so if any St Dunstaner, male or female, blind or partially sighted, is interested in joining us to learn to play or to improve their game they will be most welcome to join our Golf Club. All that is needed is enthusiasm, and a certain amount of mobility and coordination.

Golf buggies are available to get you around the course. You will be assisted by a guide. If you have one in mind, all-the-better, if not we can assist in finding one for you. Golf lessons can be arranged during the season with Janice Arnold, a PGA instructor and the Golf Professional at our permanent venue Rusper Golf Club, just north of Horsham, Sussex. There is also a provision to have free pre-season lessons. The matches are held on one weekend per month over the summer between April and December. Play is on Saturday and Sunday afternoons and there are many fine trophies to be won.

Dates for the St Dunstan's medal matches at Rusper Golf Club in 2008 are:

- 12-13 April
- 17-18 May
- 19-20 July
- 16-17 August
- 13-14 September
- 11-12 October
- 15-16 November

It is also hoped to organise additional matches against BLESMA and EPGA during the forthcoming year. Tommy Baldwin, the former Chelsea footballer has very kindly offered to organise a Celebrity Event in July in order to raise funds for the club. An invitation event is also being organised at Wildwood Golf Club for 15 June, with a practise day on 14 June to familiarise yourself with the course (we are looking for sponsors for this event). These two events do not form part of the normal schedule of St Dunstan's Club matches, however, attendance and support on these occasions would be greatly appreciated by all. If you are interested in coming to these fundraising events please contact any of the committee for more details.

If you have suggestions for the future of the club, the Committee would be pleased to receive them. If you are interested in joining us or require further information, please contact the Secretary or Captain for details. Contact Secretary Les Trout on 01989 763011, any evening after 19:00, if there is no reply please leave a message with your name and telephone number and I will get back to you as soon as possible, or alternatively phone Mike Tumilson (Captain) on 02476 714922.

CUP FINAL TICKET DRAW

WHO WILL WIN?: The FA Cup Final will be held on Saturday, 17 May 2008 at Wembley Stadium in London. It is possible that St Dunstan's will be allocated tickets. Any St Dunstaner wishing to go should send their name and address to Lisa Coyle at St Dunstan's Headquarters by 14 April. Names will be drawn at random. Any St Dunstaner offered tickets for the event will be responsible for arranging their own travel and accommodation.

RNIB KEEP YOUR EYE ON THE BALL

LOVE FOOTBALL?: Are you mad on football but find it difficult to access the game? Then Soccer Sight might have the answer!

Soccer Sight is a project led by the Royal National Institute of Blind People that aims to improve access to football venues for blind and partially-sighted people. The main issues that the project addresses are accessible information, access for guide dogs, training for match day staff and stewards and the provision of a dedicated match day commentary that brings the game to you wherever you sit within the stadium.

The project works closely with major football organisations and professional clubs to appraise and improve the facilities, stadiums and services provided for blind and partially sighted supporters at football clubs.

The RNIB are looking to promote their commentary and buddy services to people with sight loss at the following clubs:

Plymouth Argyle, Exeter City, Yeovil Town, Watford, Ipswich Town, Norwich City, Peterborough United, Notts County, Nottingham Forest and Hereford United.

Soccer Sight commentary is a special audio descriptive commentary service, which describes all the details of the action on the pitch. It is an easy to use radio system; football fans with sight loss can wear headsets and sit wherever they want in the thick of the crowd to soak up the atmosphere of the match. Soccer Sight commentators are trained by the BBC and RNIB, and they describe exactly where the ball is, who's got it and aim to be very descriptive in painting a picture of the setting and the game.

Soccer Sight Match Buddies are fans of the game and passionate about sharing their love of football with others. Both the commentators and the match buddies volunteer their time. Your match buddy will meet with you before the game and together you will go to the match (at one of the clubs listed above). The buddy will act as a sighted guide and generally help you to enjoy the game.

For more information on the Soccer Sight service contact Kalle Hogh on 01474 816553 or by e-mail on kalle.hogh@rnib.org.uk or Sue Neale on 01792 366756 or e-mail sue.neale@rnib.org.uk.

CHRISTMAS CARD SALE!

STOCK UP FOR DECEMBER: Why not buy your Christmas cards from St Dunstan's? It's a great way of supporting St Dunstan's and telling other people about our work. Right now we are offering most of our cards at half price! That's ten cards for just £2 or less! You can buy cards online at www.st-dunstans.org.uk. Alternatively please call Luke Page on 020 7616 7932!

Our selection has ten stylish designs including two twin-packs appealing to all tastes. All cards contain the same greeting inside, which reads "Every good wish for Christmas and the New Year". This year there are two Christmas card designs that have been created by St Dunstaners at Ovingdean. They also created the Note cards in the Craft Workshop at Ovingdean as well!

For more detailed information including card sizes and postage and packaging prices please visit www.st-dunstans.org.uk.

NOTIFY WELFARE AND GRANTS DEPT OF ADDRESS CHANGES

PLEASE KEEP US UP TO DATE: We would like to remind St Dunstaners to let us know of any relevant changes in their circumstances, such as change of address or telephone number. Any changes should be notified to the Welfare and Grants department at St Dunstan's HQ on 020 7723 5021 or by e-mail sending details of any change to DataChanges@st-dunstans.org.uk.

SETTING GOOD STANDARDS

GOOD PRACTICE IN FUNDRAISING: St Dunstan's recently became a member of the



FundRaising Standards Board

Fundraising Standards Board (FRSB) a self-regulatory scheme. The charity will follow the Institute of Fundraising's Codes of Fundraising Practice and the FRSB's Fundraising Promise. Doing so demonstrates that we are committed to best practice and accountability in fundraising, with a commitment to excellence and high ethical standards.

MATTHEW LE SELLEUR

OFF TO THE SUN: Area Surveyor Matthew Le Seilleur recently left St Dunstan's Peacehaven office to pursue a career in the Caymen Islands.

JACKIE IS ON THE MEND

GET WELL SOON: We are pleased to report that Jackie Greer, Head of Care at St Dunstan's Ovingdean, is making a good recovery after suffering a brain haemorrhage just before Christmas. She will be off work for a period but got home very quickly after her operation. She thanks everyone for all the flowers and cards she has received, adding "It has been very cheering to know how much people have been thinking of me and praying for my recovery."

Letters

Letters to The Editor are always welcome. Write to St Dunstan's Review, 12-14 Harcourt Street, London W1H 4HD. E-mail ray.hazan@st-dunstans.org.uk.

LETTER OF THE MONTH

Pride of the parade

On Sunday 11 November, I was privileged to take part in the Remembrance Parade at the Cenotaph in Whitehall. I was parading as part of the Habbaniyah Association. This is a group of ex-RAF personnel who were based at RAF Habbaniyah in Iraq. I served in Iraq and Persia (Iran) in 1941-42, then went to the Western Desert for El Alamein and stayed there for the rest of WWII.

The RAF kept a presence at Habbaniyah until the 1950s, so we are all getting on a bit. At 88 years old, I am one of the older members and a founder member of the Habbaniyah Association. At my age and because I am blind, I am not up to marching, so I paraded with my comrades in my wheelchair. I was asked to provide a "pusher" and my son-in-law Keith agreed to push me.

The females in my family were very unhappy



Alan Summerbell and son-in-law Keith near the Cenotaph.

about me parading at my age, especially when we discovered we had to be on Horse Guards Parade at 9:30 am and would not be dismissed till 12:30. There were so many uncertainties to consider - the traffic, the weather, my health etc. I think it is a shame that the Remembrance Parade continues to be in November when many who would love to be there are putting their health at risk because of the winter weather.

At 11 o'clock Big Ben struck and there was a deafening blast from one of the guns

which vanished in a cloud of smoke. For two minutes thousands bowed their heads and fell silent with their own thoughts. My thoughts were that as I stood surrounded by old men, I felt the presence of young men whom I had known and lost during the war.

The sun came out and the clapping began. As we came level with the Cenotaph, I handed over our wreath. Of course I could not see the memorial, but in my mind I could picture the sea of poppies which I had seen in years gone by.

We set for a drink and a chin wag at our Association lunch and there was a wonderful atmosphere of comradeship as everyone thronged along roads which had been closed for the march. A family with two small boys stopped and asked if the boys could take a photo of me with my medals for a school project. They asked me questions about what I had done in the war and where had I served. As we talked it felt as if these strangers were family or old friends because we had all been brought together by the spirit of the day.

Alan Summerbell,
Bexleyheath, Kent

A special birthday

I would like to take the opportunity to thank the staff and members of St Dunstan's for the uplifting and emotional experience I had when taking part in the day of Remembrance at the Cenotaph. The sense of camaraderie of everyone gathered at the Cenotaph was almost tangible but that of the St Dunstan's members was something special.

It was my privilege to accompany David Corscadden for the weekend. I am David's support worker

at Sense in Northern Ireland (an organisation that works with the deaf/blind community). As I am not a member of any of the armed services, another gentleman accompanied David on the parade. This whole experience was made even more special with Remembrance Day, 11 November being my birthday and I couldn't think of a more appropriate way of spending it. It is an honour to be associated with both St Dunstan's and David Corscadden. David truly embraces the entire St Dunstan's ethos of not letting your disability dictate your life, the willingness and drive to become more independent and the bravery to embrace today and the future.

In closing I would quote Corrie ten Boom, a famous Christian lady who was tortured and imprisoned in a German concentration camp but she gives these words of hope: "Faith sees the invisible, believes the unbelievable and receives the impossible."

To all associated with St Dunstan's, have faith in yourself and God and may you know his peace evermore.

Pastor David Hamill,
Northern Ireland

Thank you for you kind thoughts and friendship

Please pass on my thanks to all the supporters and friends at St Dunstan's, also the carers, Welfare Officers, Property Surveyors, and Head Office for sending flowers and best wishes when Joe was knocked down by a hit and run driver on 11 December. He sustained injuries that eventually led to the death of my lovely Joe on 19 December.

Without the support of your great organisation I would have been lost.

Thank you all for giving Joe and I the best few years going to St Dunstan's whether on courses or on holiday. We really enjoyed our time at Ovingdean and I will not forget all the good friends we have made.

Joe had a great send off. The Royal Naval Association formed a guard of honour at the crematorium and the service included two minutes silence, *Last Post* and *Reveille*. The coffin was draped in a Union Jack and his grandsons acted as pallbearers.

Laura McNamara,
Tottington, Bury Lancashire

• Joe McNamara is remembered on page 44.

Name our House

In the coming year, after a multitude of renovation work has been carried out on our house, we will be in need of an appropriate name for it. In Austria every house has a name, usually referring to the family name or simply the first name of the family owner, for example, HAUS ELISABETH.

However we would like to be different from the rest and dedicate the name choice to St Dunstan's!

We would be grateful if St Dunstaners could suggest a word or words to follow HAUS, something with a strong link to St Dunstan's. The entry also needs to be relatively short as it is to be written on the side of our bungalow. We will decide on the final name in the summer.

**Mark & Elisabeth Maddock,
Harmagor, Austria**

- Any suggestions for house names with a St Dunstan's feel can be e-mailed direct to Mark and Elisabeth on mark.maddock@tele2.at or write to our Royal Artillery St Dunstaner care of **St Dunstan's Review** at 12-14 Harcourt Street, London W1H 4HD.

A trip to the Lakes

On 12 December, two St Dunstaners travelled independently to the Lake District to stay at the Action for Blind Peoples' Windermere Manor. Clive Jones started his trip in a very remote railway station in Shropshire, with the only company being a bitter chill wind and the occasional tumbleweed! He travelled to Manchester to be met by good friend and fellow St Dunstaner David Poyner.

We both caught the train from Manchester to Windermere in the Lake District where we were met by the transport from the hotel. After booking in and orientating ourselves around the building, we hit the pool and the Sauna. There is also a solarium and gym.

We made several new friends, and then went into dinner, which in our opinion was fantastic throughout the four courses. In the evening, we both played Bingo which in itself was a laugh, with the choice of either large print or Brailled full size bingo cards.

We spent Friday shopping in Windermere and Bowness, after walking several miles around the Lake District.

Again on Friday, we were

met with the great standards of food and happiness of the staff at the manor and we spent the remainder of the night chatting and laughing with others. David walked off with the jackpot on the prize squares game.

We would like to thank all members of staff at Windermere Manor for their time and their help during our stay at the manor. We both thoroughly enjoyed our stay and would recommend a stay at the manor as it is accessible and great value for money. The hotel offers themed breaks, caters for guide dogs and nothing is too much trouble for the staff.

**David Poyner
Sale, Manchester**

The fortune of Misfortune

A CHILDREN'S CHARITY was more than fortunate when a copy of *Blind to Misfortune* by FEPOW St Dunstaner Bill Griffiths went under the gavel in auction last November. The book generated fierce competition at a Blackpool function and when bidding closed it was sold at an impressive £1,000.

Balancing the Books

Ted Bunting tips his hat to the movie master of suspense

Alfred Hitchcock's A Mystery by the Tale

Author: Various, collection edited by Cathleen Jordan

Reader: Bruce Montague

Duration: 15 hours, 44 minutes

Catalogue no: 9031

If anyone ever described Alfred Hitchcock as "predictable" it wasn't within my hearing. Indeed, it is his association with the unexpected that has endeared him to millions of people around the world. Now how and to what extent the great man was involved in the selection of the

many excellent stories contained on this recording I have no way of telling but I can easily imagine him giving each a nod of approval. All of the tales include mastery and usually some sort of crime; some are comical, some rather gruesome, and others are quite ridiculous, but all, without exception have that elusive, deliciously wicked Hitchcock ingredient that in a way is predictable. As for trying to define that quality, I really don't think we are expected to bother; Hitchcock's aim was surely to entertain and in that he was highly successful.

A world of romance and repercussions

TWO NEW books are available from Joan M. Moules, wife of St Dunstaner Leonard Moules. Both titles are hardback with 224 pages, costing £18.99 at full price, though they may be cheaper online from Amazon.com.

The Straw Halter deals with Betsy, an 18-year-old sold in the market place to farmer Daniel Forrester. When a young man comes to work on the farm, Betsy decides to investigate the death of her father who reputedly died when she was a baby.

Will Betsy discover the truth about her ancestry?

The second title, *It's One of Ours* is set in the London Blitz. Anna and Joe Putts' daughter was born on 3 September 1939 as the first sirens wailed throughout London. Eight months later Joe was in the army and like so many other young wives and mothers Anna concentrated all her love and attention on her child. A traumatic experience on the one occasion when she did go out for her own pleasure

had repercussions she could never have imagined. The book profiles the community of Dason Street; Queenie who worked in a factory and Fred, Rosie and Jim and Liza and Sid, who ran the newsagents. Sid, too old for the first call-up becomes the street's air-raid warden and later he and Liza take in bombed out children. The Dason Street party, held after Germany's surrender is interrupted as an aeroplane flies overhead. "It's all right," a small boy said as they look up, "It's one of ours."

Ten questions on...

The subject of St Valentine's Day

Harry Beevers pops the questions once more

- 1) Britain's first special occasion greetings telegram was launched on St Valentine's Day in which year?
- 2) Which former England soccer player and Manager, twice named as European Footballer of the Year, was born on St Valentine's Day 1951?
- 3) Which novel, sub-titled *St Valentine's Day*, by author Sir Walter Scott inspired an opera by French composer Bizet and makes Scots and Australians feel at home?
- 4) On St Valentine's Day 1995, 182 couples were married at Bangrak Registry Office in Siam. By what name is that country now known?
- 5) In 1964, the Beatles said you couldn't buy it, in 1967 they said it was all you need. What was it?
- 6) Cupid, the Roman god of love, was the son of which goddess noted for her beauty?
- 7) During World War II, what was a "Valentine"?
- 8) Born on St Valentine's Day 1894, who was the violin-playing American comedian who entertained troops in both World Wars, claiming to be permanently 39 years old and the meanest man in the world?
- 9) Which British couple won an Olympic gold medal on St Valentine's Day 1984 at the Winter Games in Sarajevo gaining maximum marks for artistic impression?
- 10) On St Valentine's Day 1852, Eliza Armstrong became the first ever patient of which London Hospital (famed for being granted the royalties to the play Peter Pan)?

Answers can be found on page 34.

Greater Love

ST DUNSTANER Rev David Youngson has recently published *Greater Love*, a directory of Chaplains of the British Army, Australian, Canadian, East African, New Zealand and South African Forces and Ministers of Religion who gave their lives in the period 1914 - 1922.

The Directory has a short introduction on the role of the Army Chaplains' Department during this period and contains biographical notes of 260 Clergy who lost their lives.

Included are details of citations, causes of death, some photographs, Indexes of Denominations, location of Cemeteries, and Academic Institutions attended. An Appendix lists Clergy who were appointed by The United Board to serve on the Home Front.

A valuable resource for all World War One historians and family researchers.

Price £13.75 (plus £2.50 Postage and Packing). To order, send a cheque, made payable to D.T. Youngson, to D.T. Youngson, 35 Buxton Gardens, Billingham TS22 5AJ. E-mail david.youngson@ntlworld.com.

Bill Pearce

BILL PEARCE of Liskeard, Cornwall passed away unexpectedly on 14 December, aged 86. St Dunstaners and Widows throughout the South West will recall his sage advice and cheerful patience while his wife Liz was their Area Welfare Officer.

Bill was never a member of St Dunstan's staff, but in any sense of the word, his sympathetic approach to St Dunstaners, helping them deal with life's trials and tribulations, went beyond the call of duty.

During the Second World War, he enlisted in the Royal Air Force, specialising in radar, and he served overseas with postings in Africa, Palestine and the Middle East. In civilian life, he was a Civil Servant, first with Customs & Excise and later dealing with Purchase Tax and computer procurement. In his spare time he enjoyed gardening, particularly growing roses. He was also an active member of Toc H throughout his life. Our condolences go to Liz, son Chris, daughter Ruth, and all of the family.

Joe's gift of inspiration



ST DUNSTANER Joe Elsander of Chester-le-Street, Durham proudly presented a cheque for £580 to Ovingdean Manager Dick Lake and Sports & Recreation's Louise Timms on 21 November. The money was raised when Joe took part in the Great North Run. Joe and his wife Anne were joined by St Dunstaners Dai Jones, Frances Ling and Vera Elliot who helped rally support. "Everyone who was part of our training intake at St Dunstan's has been inspired to do something," said Joe who qualified as a Sports Coach last year.

Support from Warminster

ALL SECTIONS of the community benefited from the generosity of soldiers and their families at Warminster Barracks in December. They distributed the proceeds of fundraising activities to a variety of good causes including St Dunstan's and other service organisations.



Mayor of Warminster Veronica Burden and Patrick Sinal.

Well done to pride of Blackpool

ST DUNSTANERS Bill Griffiths, Peter Burden, Frank Dickinson and Colin Williamson applauded the achievement of 177 (Blackpool Airport) Squadron Air Training Corps who raised £1,128 to aid blind ex-service men and women. In June, the cadets embarked on a 16-mile sponsored walk that included the rededication ceremony for Blackpool Cenotaph. On 22 November, they were congratulated in the Council Chamber at Blackpool Town Hall.



St Dunstan's plaque. The cadets themselves all received certificates of achievement, while Sgt Tom Catterall was named

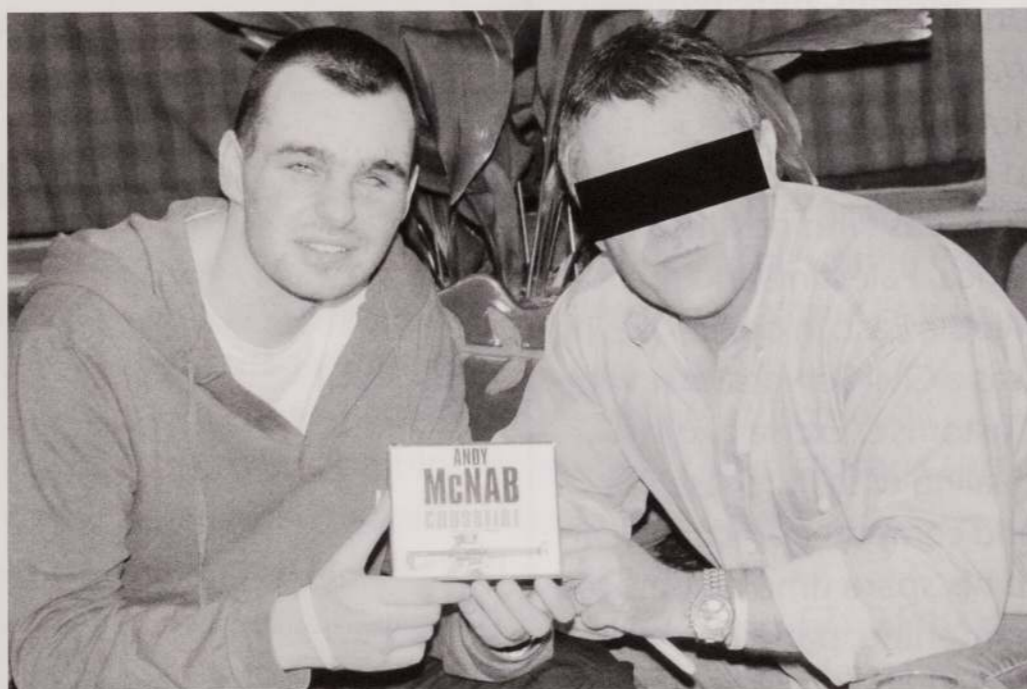
Best Cadet. It was also a nostalgic moment for the brother of Mayoress Gaynor Wynne, since he was once a member of 177 Squadron.

A cheque was presented by Corporal Rachel Alliston (who was joining the RAMC) and Corporal Nathan Ford.

Mayor of Blackpool Cllr Robert Wynne who accepted the cheque on behalf of St Dunstan's said it was something special when young people gave up their time in this fashion. He later gave the cadets a tour of the Town Hall, explaining how the Council works.

Bill Griffiths and Colin Williamson presented the ATC's Flight Lieutenant Andrew Nickson with a

Andy's bravo to hero



Photograph courtesy of The Sun.

Liverpool St Dunstaner Lance Corporal Craig Lundberg recently received some words of encouragement from SAS soldier turned author Andy McNab. They had previously met when Andy visited Craig's unit in Iraq. Andy came bearing gifts, an audio copy of his new book, *Crossfire*.

Les Trout applauds Rusper Golf Club on their silver Course ranking

Every hole has a silver lining

RUSPER GOLF CLUB, long time supporter and spiritual home of St Dunstan's Golf Club, won a Silver Award in the HSBC Regional Course Rankings which are organised in conjunction with *Golf Monthly*. The award, made in May last year, was in recognition of the fine condition and general presentation of the Club.

"For a Club of only 14 years standing it is a tribute to the work of Tony Blunden and the Course Manager, Simon Adby, and his green-keeping team. Our congratulations and thanks go to the team at Rusper for being able to play at such a great club," said St Dunstan's Golf Club Secretary Les Trout. "Our thanks especially go to Jill Thornhill for her help and assistance."

When St Dunstan's Golf Club held their final match of 2007, the Captain's Day, it resulted in a tie. Subsequently, St Dunstaner Derek Roden won on a count back and was presented with a golf bag, whilst

St Dunstaner John Nunney received a golf umbrella for his second place.

The date of the Annual General Meeting (AGM) has been changed from June to the Captain's Day in November to give a better continuity of organisation, and so that the new committee has ample time to prepare for the season ahead.

The 2007 AGM of St Dunstan's Golf Club was held at Rusper Golf Club on 25 November and the following committee was elected for the year 2008:

Chairman	Geoff Collins
Secretary	Les Trout
Treasurer	Don Oliver;
Captain	Mike Tumilson.

The new committee expressed their especial thanks to our outgoing Captain, Geoff Collins, and his wife Val, for all their hard work for the club over the past year and to all others who gave assistance.

If you are interested in joining us or require further information about St Dunstan's Golf Club please contact the Secretary or Captain (details on Noticeboard, page 5). On behalf of myself and the committee we wish all golfers a successful year in 2008 in the pursuit of their very healthy enjoyable sport, reduce your handicap, reduce your ball loss to a minimum and increase your friendships with other golfers.

David is BBS trustee

St Dunstaner David Poyner of Sale, Manchester was remains on target with visually impaired sport. He was elected Vice Chairman of the National Council for British Blind Sport in June.

Following that in November, he was elected to be a trustee of British Blind Sport. He is also Chairman of the British Blind Sport Archery Section and Chairman of St Dunstan's Archery Club.

David Stuttard remains dedicated to providing clean water in Ghana even though the project has its ups and downs

New plan for pipeline

THIS PROJECT goes back to 2004, when I decided to use my Military skill to help others less fortunate than ourselves.

My first thoughts centred on locations in India, Sri-Lanka and areas in that part of the world, as the TV reports always mentioned the shortage of clean fresh water in those regions, but the 2004 tsunami made me look at other parts of the world where a water and sanitation programme could work.

Whilst speaking to Military Water Development Engineers at their barracks in Chilwell, Nottingham, for their advice, one of them mentioned a health and education project in Ghana, run by a church from Nottingham. Their church project did not have access to sustainable clean water. Their project is called 'The King's Village'. Our expertise and interest was providing water and deep block lined latrines and for this work,

I was made an Elder of the villages and presented with a ceremonial gown.

Sustainability was high on the list of any work we carried out. After the pilot project in 2005, I, with other people from the KV, evaluated the work and sustainability. We decided we could not continue the hygiene and pipe line work. For example: a trench (5.5 kilometres in length, x.75m deep x.3m wide) was dug by the village people, by hand, the sun beating down at temp 42c, high humidity and during the period of Ramadan (no drinking or eating during daylight). We first got approval of the water company that managed the pipe line, we even paid the connection charge of the line to their low pressure main, plus the water tax. When we left in December 2005, water was running through the line, great! The females of the villages walked 5-6 kilometres, five times a day

with a 5 gallon container on their heads to collect contaminated water, putting in stand pipes put a stop to this, the females also dug out the deep pit latrines, ready for block lining.

I phoned the people at the KV in the January 06, to be told water was only pumped through the pipeline five days out of seven. Also problems arose with some young men from another village whom we had tried to help previously, by drilling a borehole. Unfortunately that was dry, but that is the geological nature of the ground since only one-in-three produce water and not all with any great yield. These young men turned off the water, then smashed the fittings so that without major repair it would not be possible to turn the water back on.

So when I returned to Ghana in 2006, I arranged that all those involved attend a meeting at the District

Assembly, including the young men from the village. The meeting had lots of shouting and threats but I had to remember, unlike back home, they were changing their culture and way of living, just because a blind man said they would be better off!!

By majority, it was agreed that I could send a maintenance team from the water company so they could reinstate the line the following day, great! When the repair team turned up the following day, the young men from the village were out in force, with machetes. The threat was real, so the repair team returned to base and the pipe lays empty. I have not given up, when I raise over £16,000 we will be able to connect to a different rising main, agreed with the water company. I said there were ups and downs.

While planning and coordinating this work, at one of the many meetings we had at the Barracks in Nottingham, we decided to take out some West African Health & Assistance Insurance, this included everyone flying out from the UK. A pal of mine came out as my carer and towards the



The team drill a borehole though the chances of finding a consistent water supply are slim.

end of the trip he became seriously ill with a viral infection. The on site doctor said in her opinion, he needed to be airlifted to the main hospital in Accra.

Our casevac plan was put into action, using the satellite phone that I took on each of these trips, just in case, contact was made to the emergency number we had been given. Two-and-a-half hours later, my pal was in the medical helicopter going back to where it had flown from, some 425 miles away in Accra. Who said "Don't bother about travel insurance?" The flight alone cost some £12,000! My pal

has since recovered and is back at work.

I hope you can imagine the independence this work has given back to me, after managing this project for the last two years on my own and so that I can continue to fund the work, with a sighted partner, I have set up a charity called 'My Ubique'. Ubique is the Motto of the Royal Engineers and means 'Everywhere'.

We have set up a website www.myubique.org.uk.

With the help of the partnership that I've worked with over the last two years including British Army, Ghanaian Army, British High Commission (Accra), King's Village and World Vision of America, whose drilling equipment and crews have all worked in hard, hot and arduous conditions, miles from anywhere, we have now given some 20,000 people, including children, living in the Tolon-Kumbungu District the chance of a healthier life, free from the endemic problems of Guinea Worm or Trachoma. Once again, thanks to St Dunstan's for their encouragement for me to continue this work.

Eric Sayce describes his day to remember with the Jubilee Walkway Trust

Description by decree

The occasion, the day was Monday 19 November 2007, the day that Her Majesty The Queen and His Royal Highness The Duke of Edinburgh celebrated their Diamond Wedding Anniversary in Westminster Abbey. I was privileged to receive an invitation from the Jubilee Walkway Trust to attend an event involving Her Majesty The Queen and His Royal Highness The Duke of Edinburgh.

Following the service of thanksgiving in Westminster Abbey, Her Majesty unveiled a new panoramic panel in Parliament Square. The panel commissioned by the Jubilee Walkway Trust is dedicated to her Majesty's Diamond Wedding Anniversary.

Accompanied by my guide dog Wills, I was met at Euston station by my friend Peter Howell from the Dog Rose Trust having travelled from Coventry to London on the Virgin Pendolino service. We took a taxi to the bottom of Whitehall

completing the journey to Parliament Square on foot. The weather was horrible, bitterly cold wind and heavy squally rain which we could hear hitting the roof of the taxi. Aware that we would be standing out in the square for a couple of hours, during which I anticipated that we would be soaked, didn't exactly excite me. I need not have worried within ten minutes of arriving in the Square the sun came out and stayed out for the duration of our stay.

The Square, which is surrounded by some of London's most important buildings, is cut off by roads on all sides leaving a grass area with trees in the centre enjoyed by the statues of famous statesmen such as Winston Churchill, Abraham Lincoln and most recently Nelson Mandela. At 12:00 the police closed all the roads to all traffic. To access the panel, which is situated facing the Square directly opposite the north door of the Abbey, we had to pass through a security gate manned

by armed police. Here we showed our passports and invitations which were then checked against the invited list. At last, we made it to the panel which is approximately 40cm high and 1.3 metres long, giving easy access for wheel chair users. The panel has been fabricated in etched zinc and is designed to be fully tactile. On the left, it features the title and some text about the panel in Braille. The words of this text have been incorporated into an audio description which is available on mobile telephone. The number to call is 0870 240 6094, choose option 2, and when asked for a pin number put in 201 and then the hash sign (#). The use of the telephone in this way is a first in my experience. It overcomes the vandal problem and besides being available when you are feeling the panel, it allows people where ever they live to listen in, say from home, if planning a visit to London and deciding where to visit.

I include a brief example of the description taken from

the audio guide. "Moving from left to right at the top of the panel there is a panoramic illustration of Parliament Square as it appears from where you are standing. Many of the buildings shown are in more detail below. A textured area, representing the road, marks a division of the two area's."

To hear the full audio description, why not call 0870 240 6094 and listen for yourself? The panel itself incorporates a tactile plan of the 14-mile walkway in central London established by the Trust in response to a request by Her Majesty The Queen to provide a welcoming insight for visitors into London life. This panel is one of 30 located around the walkway.

The royal car flanked by police motor cycle outriders brought Her Majesty The Queen and HRH The Duke of Edinburgh from Westminster Abbey direct to the panel. Her Majesty, alighted from the car and, with formal introductions over, then pulled the tasselled cords on the cream coloured cover bearing the initials JWT with its crown logo thus exposing the panel. Her Majesty took quite some time exploring

the panel for herself being interested in all aspects of his design and accessibility. For the ladies, The Queen was wearing an off white coat with large wide brimmed hat to match, with black handbag, shoes and white gloves.

Her Majesty was introduced to those involved with the project. I had the honour of being introduced. I congratulated Her Majesty, taking my hand she thanked me and asked about my involvement with the project. HRH The Duke of Edinburgh followed, asking me questions about Wills, my guide dog. What part did he play? Putting a hand on my shoulder and leaning towards me, we shared a joke about Wills. This was followed by an introduction to HRH The Duke of Gloucester.

We were led by the Duke of Gloucester to the Westminster Abbey Museum where the champagne reception was held during which the Duke took the opportunity to formally announce the Jubilee Greenway. The Greenway is a 60-mile route for walkers and cyclists which has been planned by the Jubilee Walkway Trust to connect all the Olympic venues in central London. In the same

way that the Jubilee Walkway was created in celebration of Her Majesty's Silver Jubilee. It is hoped that this will be completed in time for the Olympics in 2012.

My involvement stemmed from my work as a consultant with my friends of the Dog Rose Trust who specialise in the research and development of access systems which are helping blind and visually impaired people to access and enjoy historic buildings such as cathedrals, castle, museums, galleries, country walks which explore the countryside, city and town walks which explore the architecture and environment. This is done using audio guides, tactile plans and models which often are universal; that is to say they can be used by every one, the text and sighted picture being made tactile for the blind and partially sighted with the use of Braille and a transparent material which is superimposed on the visual sign or plan. My involvement on this project was the audio description.

For further information go to www.jubileewalkway.com for the Jubilee Walkway Trust and www.dogrose-trust.org.uk for the Dog Rose Trust.

Lisa Johnston follows a St Dunstaner returning to the Falkland Islands



This is where I was shot!

A tranquil spot in Goose Green, Stephen Tuffen believes this is where he was shot in 1982.

A PARATROOPER so badly injured in the Falklands Conflict that he was never able to meet the people his regiment liberated 25 years ago has finally been able to greet the Islanders who still appreciate his bravery. St Dunstaner Stephen Tuffen was shot in the back of the head by an Argentine high velocity bullet during the battle for Goose Green. The former soldier of The 2nd Battalion, The Parachute Regiment is, as a result, now partially sighted.

Unlike his colleagues Stephen was never able to reach Goose Green Settlement and witness the relief and gratitude of the liberated Islanders who had

been imprisoned in a small hall for most of the Conflict.

However, in November, he was met with smiles and unrelenting hugs when he arrived at Goose Green accompanied by comrades from 2 Para visiting the islands as part of the Falklands 25 Pilgrimage.

Stephen was noticeably

overwhelmed to be able to revisit Goose Green and take time to explore the exact spot where he was almost fatally wounded.

Speaking of his traumatic battle experience while standing on the now peaceful and sunny slopes around Goose Green and Darwin on East Falklands, he said, "The last thing I remember is scaling the wire fence as we approached the Argentine positions. I was really relieved to get over the fence without incidence because back at Burnside

House I had got caught on a barbed wire fence and got a hell of a bollocking from the Section Commander."

Stephen, who had been carrying his heavy General Purpose Machine Gun added, "Since I've been here today I can remember the ground being uneven when I was trying to position the bipod on the ground, so that means I must have been on the slope when I was shot."

Asked how he felt about his return to the battleground, he answered thoughtfully, "Good, positive. I've visited before but I was just too emotional to really look around and try and retrieve some memories. This time it's a bit different, I want to get my bearings and then just

sit down where it happened and close my eyes for a bit and try and get a feeling for how it happened."

With the usual black humour of soldiers one of his mates joked as we approached the spot, "Hey Steve, if you're really lucky we might find your brains around the corner." Stephen's wound was so severe he was described as being "shattered, like a boiled egg that had been hit with a spoon."

Pointing at the bottom of a steep slope, his friend explained, "That's where you were dragged to after you were shot."

Initially Stephen had been left in the open due to the



Goose Green resident Sally McLeod has a warm "thank you" hug for Para St Dunstaner Stephen Tuffen.

rain of bullets from positions immediately above and to the right. Pointing towards the Goose Green cemetery situated serenely at the top of a sloping, open faced valley (around to the right and almost behind where Stephen would have approached the slope) he added "That's how I got hit in the back of the head. I guess we thought the positions were only above us and around the corner of the slope but in fact there were Argy positions in the cemetery too."

As animated as his friends and despite his poor vision, Stephen moved with his cautious, almost childlike gait, back and forth around the slopes; first laying down where he was shot then jumping up and approaching the memorial to Colonel H Jones, part way up a 'v' shaped slope. Finally he walked along the top of the ridge, closely examining the now overgrown indents in the peaty ground in which the Argentine soldiers once sheltered while they carefully sighted, picked out and shot approaching British troops.

Turning again to the left he, and I, were both captured

by the eerie sight of his four mates sitting in the Argentine trench across the valley. One was lying down lining up as if aiming a gun.

"Colonel H was shot from that trench," explained Stephen. "You can see why he didn't have a chance."

It was clear from Stephen's face he couldn't quite believe anyone had managed to survive the completely cover free approach to the countless Argentine trenches at the top of each slope; and in fact many of his colleagues simply didn't make it home. "I really feel I'm one of the lucky ones," he said quietly.

Twenty five years ago, Stephen Tuffen, an 18-year-old Paratrooper, had never heard of the Falkland Islands. And in 1982, when he was called back to his Battalion and placed on stand-by for the Campaign he never believed they would go.

"It's not that we didn't want to go, we did, we'd heard stories from the older guys in the battalion and we wanted to show we could do the job as well. We were proud of the tradition of the Parachute Regiment and wanted to carry it on."

Despite his doubts Stephen and the rest of the battalion were heading south on, much to their dismay, the Cross Channel Ferry, *Norland*. "We weren't impressed that other regiments got *Canberra* and *QE2* and we got a ferry," he laughed.

The long sail south on *Norland* would soon come to be considered a luxury, when in the early hours of 21 May Stephen, surrounded by many other soldiers as young as he, trooped into landing craft for the move towards San Carlos.

"When we got to the beach we expected to be able to step out onto sand but the Booties (Royal Marines) didn't want to get too close and end up beached. We could see the water was pretty deep so didn't want to get out. Then someone shouted 'go' so we jumped out. I was up to my neck with my GPMG held above my head – that water was freezing."

Wet before their job had even started Stephen described the walk up into Sussex Mountain as exhausting. "We were wet and carrying our heavy bergens, if we had to throw ourselves down, then it

was really difficult to get up again. I was so cold at one point my teeth were chattering so hard I had to force my fist against my chin to try and control it."

After a week on Sussex Mountain setting up defensive positions, orders came for the long tab (Para speak for marching) to Camilla Creek House. There they spent the first night preparing for the attack on Goose Green. Unfortunately, their plan was foiled by the BBC who, to their horror, announced 2 Para's plans to the world.

"So instead of getting on with the job we had to dart around the countryside avoiding the expected repercussions in the form of air-attacks."

Surprisingly the air attacks never materialised; "Possibly, because the Argentines probably thought nobody would do anything so stupid as to broadcast the battle plan," mused Stephen. "They probably thought it was some kind of diversionary tactic."

Eventually the decision was made to start the battle; first with the A Company attack on the isolated Burnside



Stephen and other 2 Parachute Regiment veterans meet up with residents of Goose Green at Para Cross.

House. "After that came the full on attack," said Stephen. At this point his memory becomes hazy. "I know we approached around the beach, but I think the Argys thought we were a returning Argentine patrol, that's how we got so close."

Pointing to the spot where he fell and then at the nearby memorial he concluded, "That's where H. Jones fell, so he would have had to run right past me when I was injured on the ground."

The Lance Corporal and the Doctor that first examined Stephen held out little hope for his survival. "I wasn't rushed back for treatment because it seemed so unlikely that I would live - there was a big hole in the back of my head so attention was paid

to those they considered more likely to live."

His mates speculate now that the cold helped keep him alive, "It's thought now that a lot of soldiers lived because the cold congealed the blood in wounds – that might have happened with Steve."

After ten hours or more Stephen was flown by helicopter to Ajax Bay where his brain was quite literally 'scooped' back into his head. He was then moved to the hospital ship *Uganda* and to the *Hydra* before a flight back via Uruguay to Britain.

Stephen's recovery was relatively fast following an operation to remove hair and bone from his brain. "I could see a bit better after that; it got rid of the

blurriness." Today, however, Stephen has no peripheral vision. "I trip over a lot as I can't see what's below me unless I actually look down."

Stephen is forced to scan from left to right to maintain his bearings, "As I get older that gets quite tiring."

Was the War worth it though? "Coming here and seeing how much the people sincerely care about us makes it all worthwhile," said Stephen. "It's nice to feel appreciated and to see how much the Islanders appreciate the sacrifices that were made. Seeing the kids running around - it's great to see the kids, the future of the Islands, living happily under a democracy."



Stephen at Goose Green Hall where locals were held captive during the conflict.

Tony Lee revisits an old posting which is now more like the idyllic island paradise he once imagined as a young soldier

A dream come true

JOIN THE ARMY and see the world'; a well known comment and one that as a young man I believed would be right for me. As an abandoned child at a very young age and eventually living with foster parents, but often feeling insecure and getting into trouble, my foster father believed the best thing for me was to join the Army. So at the age of 16, I enlisted at the recruitment offices in Mill Road, Cambridge and joined the Boy's Squadron

of the Royal Engineers at the Military School attached to the Malta Barracks at Aldershot.

At last I had some discipline and purpose to my life; I worked hard and at the end of 18 months passed the Army First Class Certificate with high commendation. I was then given the opportunity to join the No 9 Unit at Cov Farnborough for further military training and from there joined the Commanders School at

Lympstone, where after four months intensive training under all kinds of conditions I graduated as 'Cadet of the Year' and was presented with my Green Beret and Silver Top Stick by Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. An immensely proud moment for me, but one filled with mixed emotions because as an orphan there were no family members to share this ceremony with me, unlike other Cadets. It is a memory that has stayed with me all through my life and even now 50-odd years on, still has an upsetting effect on me. But I believe the experience made me all the more determined to succeed and has given me the strength to make something of my life and helped me to cope with now becoming partially sighted (but that is another story).

To move onto the dream; I am now a young and enthusiastic daredevil young man of 18 and up for any challenges that life may offer

me. My first posting was to Hamelin in Germany, not as the newest Piped Piper but to build bridges and to operate waterborne ferries. From then on my Army career took me to many places throughout Germany and other postings across the world such as Cyprus, Aden, Ceylon and Singapore.

I had now been in the Army for nearly three years and was looking for more adventure and it was at this point that requests were being made for Royal Engineers to volunteer to go to Christmas Island in the South Pacific to join the H-Bomb Programme.

So for a young man, the idea of going to a Pacific Island with palm trees, beautiful young girls in grass skirts, sun, sea, and relaxing on golden beaches was an opportunity not to be missed. In reality, it was nothing like I had imagined. On arrival we were met with intense heat, flies, no home comforts and a definite shortage of beer!

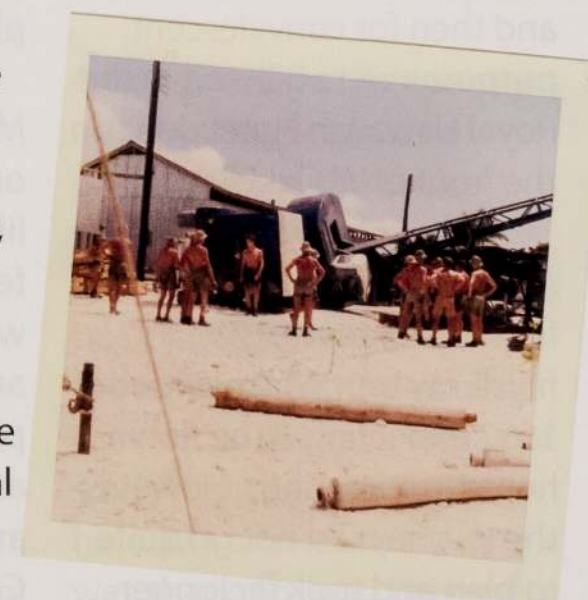
Because the Island is very remote there were few amenities; lots of coconut and palm trees and miles of underdeveloped land.



Tony stands before a map of Christmas Island in the Captain Cook Hotel. The building was constructed by Royal Engineers as the Officers Mess while he was stationed there.

Our tasks were to build the entire infrastructure to make the Island habitable for the work that was to be carried out. So roads had to be built, an airfield reconstructed, electricity, communications, water, stores and accommodation all had to be put in place. This took several weeks before the Island was ready for the H-Bomb Programme to commence.

My involvement in the testings took place during



The Sappers debate how to deal with a crane that fell over while they installed the power station engine.



Sun, sand and a six am start for young Sapper Tony while stationed on Christmas Island in support of H-Bomb tests.

the period 1956-57. Dressed only in a pair of shorts, bush hat and flip flops, I watched two separate explosions take place from afar, with only my hands over my eyes in a crouched position. As the explosion lit up the sky in a mushroom effect I could see the bones of my hands illuminated by the intense heat and blast. At the time I little knew what the impact of being in such close proximity to the tests would have on all of us who were on the Island. Several days after these tests were carried out, many of us came out in large sores all over our bodies which were classed as "coral sores". For this reason we were flown off the Island to Hickham Air Force Base and admitted to hospital for a stay of some two months and then for convalescent purposes were billeted in the Royal Hawaiian Hotel right on the front of Waikiki Beach!

After a further month I was flown back to the Island to finish my tour which ended in 1957 expecting to be flown home in a Hastings. However the journey did not go quite to plan and took far longer than expected. Because of problems with the plane, we came via Fiji, Darwin, Australia, Singapore and



Home was this tent at Port Camp on Christmas Island.

Ceylon. Each time the plane touched down for repairs we were commandeered to carry out tasks with local Royal Engineers. I began to wonder if I would ever to see 'dear old blighty' again. We finally left Ceylon in the Hastings and believe it or not, the "poor old girl" had yet more engine problems and the pilot had to ditch the plane in the Indian Ocean!

My memory of this is sitting on the wing for something like three hours with my feet dangling in the water with the possibility of sharks around before she sunk! The pilot had radioed for help and eventually a RAF Launch arrived and took us back to Ceylon! Finally, we were put on another plane and flown home! Phew! What a great feeling to touch down on English soil!

The reader may wonder what this has to do with my "dream come true"? Fact is that even having been through some fairly horrifying experiences I have long wanted to go back to Christmas Island to renew some of my memories. Work commitments and other factors prevented me from going back. It has only been now, even though I am partially sighted and in some measure to the encouragement given me by St Dunstan's, that my wife and I were able to make that trip.

We set off on a partial World Cruise flying to Australia and cruising around that country onto New Zealand and around the Pacific Islands taking in Christmas Island and eventually Honolulu.

My dream to visit Christmas Island had finally come true; on the morning of 21 May 2007, the ship docked off shore from the Island and I was like an excited schoolboy, filled with emotions. Because of the shallowness of the reef it was necessary for passengers to be 'tendered' across; and as we were only to have five hours on the Island I wanted to make sure that I was on the first tender, which thanks to some

American friends that we made onboard, happened. It was then that I had my 15 minutes of fame, because the Captain of the ship knowing that I was the only Christmas Island Veteran on board radioed the landing party that I was to be the first passenger to step ashore. By now my emotions were overflowing and I found the whole experience much more emotional than I had expected.

With my wife and five other American friends, we boarded a three-and-a-half ton truck with wooded bench seats with a guide who had been born on the island during the year that I was there. What followed was a most incredible and wonderful afternoon which went beyond my expectations. Although much has changed on the Island there was much that I could remember and much of the infrastructure that I had played a part in building was still there. For instance the tarmac road that went from the port to the airport is still used, so is the Airport and Runway, the power station that I helped build is still used, and the Officers Mess that was built by The Royal Engineers is now the Island's Captain Cook Hotel.

Christmas Island was discovered by the explorer Captain Cook who named the Island after spotting its landmass on Christmas Eve in 1777. Once a British colony, the island is now part of the nation of Tuvalu. Because of its remoteness there is no industry on the Island, but it was encouraging to see how the local people are making a life for themselves by making and selling souvenirs which they sell from stalls in the port area. There are good schools for the children who are all well dressed, look happy and run about with no shoes on their feet; such is the local custom! There is a post office, a hospital, a library three or four churches and the airport where two flights a week come from Honolulu.

Christmas Island today is a protected haven; its barrier reef teems with colourful fish and its bird life draws devoted birdwatchers from around the world. Funding for the Island comes from the Australian, New Zealand and UK Government and also from some fundraising undertaken by the Nuclear Veterans.

The afternoon closed with children from the schools

singing English songs and displays of dancing from the older Islanders. I returned to the Ship filled with an immensely warm and a very happy and satisfied feeling that my long time dream had after nearly fifty years finally come true.

The dream was completed at the end of our Cruise by staying for a few days in the Hawaiian Hotel in Honolulu, where again memories of my time spent there came flooding back. Whilst there my wife and I were able to visit Pearl Harbour on their Memorial Day, again where I had spent time as young Royal Engineer.

This is only a small part of my Army Career as I went on to serve until 1961.

A question I was frequently asked by my fellow passengers of the Cruise ship was "Why, when you are partially sighted, do you undertake journeys such as these?" their attitude being that because I have impaired sight life has to be put on hold. My answer to them was that once you become a St Dunstaner you are encouraged to live life to the full even although there may be some drawbacks.

Rolling up the years

Bob Osborne reports from the Sports Hall

WE WERE pleased to welcome three new members to our club. Sid Bowden, Bill Finbow, and John Lainchbury, as well as our regular players. Our tournament, from 28 October to 10 November, ran very smoothly under the expert guidance of "she-who-must-be-obeyed" – Joan Osborne. One thing that upset was when we heard that one of our callers from the Saltdean Bowls Club, Jack was very poorly in hospital. We later heard that he was making good progress. However, we were very pleased Roger McMullen was able to be with us.

Of course, it would not have been such a success without the help of the following John Mugan, Frank Smith, Colwyn Lloyd and members of the staff who helped on the green. I am always pleased to thank the tea ladies led by Marjorie Mills who do a great job for us.

John says I must mention that the winners of the Triples represented a total,

as St Dunstaners between them, 175 years. Bob and Eric have been St Dunstaners 63 years each and Colwyn 49.

We also had a fun fours game which included the Ladies. The winners were Cathy Sullivan, Bob Osborne John Mugan and Graham Johnson.

It just remains for me once again to thank everyone for their support. The next tournament will be from the March 2-15. So book early.

RESULTS

SINGLES

- 1st John Lainchbury
- 2nd Graham Johnson
- 3rd Colwyn Lloyd

PAIRS

- 1st John Lainchbury and Alan Gibson
- 2nd Colwyn Lloyd and James Poole

TRIPLES

- 1st Bob Osborne, Eric Church and Colwyn Lloyd
- 2nd Graham Johnston, Norman Perry and John Sullivan

CABBAGE MECHANIC

INGREDIENTS:

- Plain flour 4oz (100g)
- Milk ½ pint
- Eggs 2
- Lard 1 knob
- Juice of 1 lemon or other citrus fruit
- Sugar to taste

Shrove Tuesday on 5 February is a day of penitence, being "shriven" of one's sins. The day before Lent, families would feast on anything that might go off during a 40-day fast and pancakes were any easy way of using up fats and eggs.

Cabbage Mechanic uses a simple recipe for pancakes. Place flour, eggs and milk into a blender and blitz vigorously to create your batter. If you prefer, place the ingredients in a jug and bowl and whisk by hand.

Place a knob of lard in a flat frying pan (or griddle if you are lucky enough to have one) and heat so that the oil spreads evenly. Pour some of the batter into the pan and let it spread. Let it cook some 30-40 seconds. The top will still be fluid, but if you

test the base with a pan slice or palette knife it should be solidified. Flip over with the pan slice, cook another 30 seconds, then transfer to a plate. Add more batter to the pan and repeat the process. Depending on how much batter you add to the pan, these quantities should provide four to six pancakes.

Serve the pancakes with a sprinkling of sugar and some juice squeezed from a lemon (lime or orange is a delightful alternative).

Of course, pancakes lend themselves to a variety of treatment. Try varying the quantities of flour and milk. Cook them thick or thin. Serve with maple syrup and cream, or jam and ice cream. Or add a pinch of salt and sprinkle with coarse black pepper. Adding mushrooms and a spoonful of sour cream can also create a tasty meal.

Music by numbers

GERALD BURRIDGE has recently become a St Dunstaner. Rather than give up his love for music due to failing sight, he has devised a system of musical notation for those who have some useful residual sight.

"After many attempts, I devised a system whereby my diminishing eyesight could cope, by enlarging the numbers which replaces musical notation," he said.

"There is a great deal of information on the staves of written music. This can be very difficult for people with partial sight to read. The system described here allows simple music to be played using a system of notation that is much easier to read. The principle of the system is that instead of

letter names, the notes have numbers, and instead of the cycling through the same seven letters the numbers are individual for each note.

"Lengths of notes (number of beats) are indicated by symbols placed after the numbers, and the music is divided into bars by vertical lines."

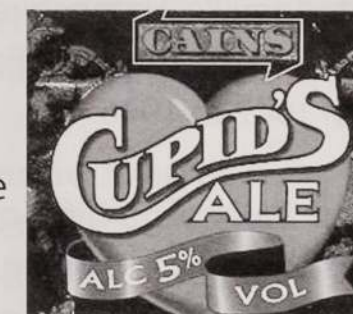
The duration symbols are a dot for single-beat notes; a heavy dot for two-beat notes; a circle with a dot for three-beat notes; and a circle with a bar for four-beat notes.

Gerald has transcribed many songs and tunes. If anyone is interested in following this up further and would like to contact Gerald, then please do so via the **Review** at Harcourt Street.

BEER OF THE MONTH

by Colin Williamson

Here's ale for Valentine's Day called Cupid's Ale (ABV 5 per cent) brewed at the Robert Cain Brewery in Liverpool. The beer is copper coloured with a distinct blush of red. The brew includes ginseng as an ingredient and this adds to the quite fragrant hop aroma that is similar to lemongrass. The beer has a fruity plum flavour that is both soft and tart and sits well with biscuity malt. All together a very pleasant ale ideal to get you in the mood! Cains is the Official Beer of the City of Culture, so if you are in Liverpool you might also like to try a pint of Culture 2008



Welcome to St Dunstan's

Edwin Abbott of Charlton Kings, Cheltenham, Gloucestershire served in the Royal Navy from 1940 to 1946.

Edward Ackerman of Yeovil, Somerset served in the Royal Air Force from 1943 to 1946.

William Allgood of Linthorpe, Middlesbrough served in the Royal Northumberland Fusiliers from 1940 to 1946.

Keith Arblaster of Stroud, Gloucestershire served in the Royal Air Force from 1939 to 1946.

Sidney Ashworth of Richmond, North Yorkshire served as Warrant Officer II in the Royal Corps of Signals from 1931 to 1953.

Ronald Aspin of Washington, Tyne & Wear served in the Royal Army Service Corps from 1952 to 1954.

Martin Bailey of Waterlooville, Hampshire served in the Royal Air Force from 1942 to 1946.

Peter Baily of Cardiff, South Glamorgan served in the Royal Army Ordnance Corps,

the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers and the Royal Army Educational Corps between 1942 and 1946.

Sidney Baldwin of Fulwood, Preston, Lancashire served in the Royal Signals from 1940 to 1946.

Sir Colville Barclay of Winchester, Hampshire served in the Royal Navy from 1941 to 1946.

John Barnfather of Whitehaven, Cumbria served in the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers from 1944 to 1948.

Barbara Bassil of Maidenhead, Berkshire served in the Women's Auxiliary Air Force from 1941 to 1947.

Hilda Bates of Whitley Bay, Tyne & Wear served in the Auxiliary Territorial service from 1944 to 1946.

Thomas Benson of Kirkby, Lonsdale, Lancashire served in the Royal Artillery and The Queen's Royal Regiment from 1940 to 1946.

Major Andrew Best of East Grinstead, West Sussex

served in the Royal Armoured Corps from 1972 to 1994.

Arthur Blackwood of Midhurst, West Sussex served in the Royal Marines from 1930 to 1946.

James Booth of Barnet, Hertfordshire served in the Home Guard in Middlesex from 1942 to 1944.

Albert Brooks of Winchester, Hampshire served in the Royal Northumberland Fusiliers from 1956 to 1962 and then the Royal Army Pay Corps until 1985.

Jeffrey Burdett of Burton-on-Trent, Staffordshire served in the Home Guard from 1941 to 1945.

William Burdett of Tamworth, Staffordshire served in the Royal Signals from 1942 to 1947.

Arthur Burns of Southampton, Hampshire served in the Royal Marines from 1943 to 1946.

Samuel Carpenter of Stafford, Staffordshire served in the Royal Air Force from 1943 to 1950.

Mary Chouler of Wirral, Merseyside served in the Women's Auxiliary Air Force from 1941 to 1943.

Frank Coats of Bristol, Somerset served in the General Service Corps and Royal Army Service Corps between 1944 and 1947.

Thomas Cosby of Highcliffe-on-Sea, Christchurch, Dorset served in the Royal Army Ordnance Corps and the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers from 1942 to 1947.

Kenneth Davies of Mold, Clwyd served in the Royal Artillery from 1947 to 1948.

Patricia Davis of High Hawsker, Whitby, North Yorkshire served in the Auxiliary Territorial Service from 1941 to 1945.

James Dean of Bromley, Kent served in the Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve from 1941 to 1946.

David Douglas of Minehead, Somerset served in the Royal Army Service Corps from 1955 to 1957.

Percy Eames of Bromley, Kent served in the Royal Air Force from 1937 to 1957.

Phyllis Ferrow of Seaford, East Sussex served in the Women's Royal Naval Service from 1943 to 1946.

Arthur Gawthorpe of Knottingley, West Yorkshire served in the General Service Corps and the 15th Scottish Reconnaissance Regiment between 1943 and 1946.

Marjorie Gilston of Lichfield, Staffordshire served in the Women's Auxiliary Air Force, and in turn, the Women's Royal Air Force between 1944 and 1949.

Stanley Golding of Kesgrave, Ipswich, Suffolk served in the Rifle Brigade (Prince Consort's Own) from 1940 to 1946.

James Hamer, OBE of Hull, North Humberside served in the Royal Navy from 1946 to 1954.

Frank Hard-Robinson of Eastbourne, East Sussex served in the Royal Air Force from 1941 to 1946.

Richard Hardy of Bradford, West Yorkshire served in the Royal Air Force from 1942 to 1945.

William Heard of Slough, Berkshire served in the Royal Air Force from 1947 to 1949.

William Hill of Meiford, Powys served in the Royal Signals from 1939 to 1946.

Leonard Hiscock of Farnham, Surrey served in the Royal Navy from 1943 to 1946.

Albert Hogbin of Brighton served in the Royal Artillery, The East Surrey Regiment, The Queen's Own Royal West Kent Regiment and Royal Army Service Corps between 1941 and 1946.

Francis Hutchinson of Ormesby, Middlesbrough, Cleveland served in the Royal Air Force from 1941 to 1946.

Ronnie Hyde of Rotherham, South Yorkshire served as Aircraftman II in the Royal Air Force from 1950 to 1952.

Arthur Jackson of Esher, Surrey served in the Royal Army Service Corps from 1940 to 1946.

Lewis James of Epsom, Surrey served in the Royal Fusiliers (City of London Regiment) from 1939 to 1941.

Raymond John of Maidenhead, Berkshire served in the Royal Air Force from 1940 to 1946.

David Jones of Enfield, Middlesex served in the Royal Army Service Corps from 1939 to 1946.

Frank Jones of Narberth, Dyfed served in the Royal Army Service Corps from 1941 to 1946.

Joseph Jones of Talybont, Dyfed served as Leading Aircraftman in the Royal Air Force from 1940 to 1946.

Donald Kidby of Clacton-on-Sea, Essex served as Aircraftman II in the Royal Air Force from 1947 to 1949.

Joseph King of Barmouth, Gwynedd served in the General Service Corps and Royal Signals between 1947 and 1952.

Eric Kloss of King's Lynn, Norfolk served in the Royal Air Force from 1947 to 1955.

Edward Latham of Liverpool, Merseyside served in the Royal Artillery and Army Catering Corps between 1939 to 1947.

Jack Leah of High Wycombe, Buckinghamshire served in the Royal Army Medical Corps and then the Royal Army Service Corps between 1939 and 1946.

John Lyons of Liverpool, Merseyside served in the Loyal Regiment (North Lancashire) and the Royal Armoured Corps between 1940 and 1947.

John McClean of Belfast, County Antrim served in the Irish Guards as Sergeant from 1955 to 1972.

Frank McEvoy of Carshalton, Surrey served in the Army Catering Corps from 1960 to 1977.

Alexander McKay of South Shields, Tyne & Wear served in the Royal Artillery from 1939 to 1946, and again from 1949 to 1959.

Alistair Macdonald of Evanton, Dingwall, Ross-Shire served in the General Service Corps and the Royal Engineers between 1942 to 1946.

Rose Maddocks of Wigston, Leicestershire served in the Auxiliary Territorial Service from 1943 to 1947.

Kenneth Maidens of Salesbury, Blackburn, Lancashire served in the Royal Air Force from 1952 to 1954.

John Mannion of Rotherham, South Yorkshire served in the Royal Army Pay Corps from 1949 to 1951.

Michael Margetts of Peterborough, Cambridgeshire served in the Royal Army Service Corps from 1946 to 1948.

Joseph Mason of Grimsargh, Preston, Lancashire served in the Royal Artillery from 1939 to 1946.

Thomas Millington of Emsworth, Hampshire served in the Royal Navy from 1944 to 1946.

Michael Mitchell of Stockton-on-Tees, Cleveland served in the Royal Air Force from 1947 to 1949.

Alan Murphy of Thornton Cleveleys, Lancashire served in the Royal Army Medical Corps from 1960 to 1962.

David Neate of Hove, East Sussex served in the Royal Artillery from 1940 to 1946.

Jack Netherstreet of Bromley, Kent served in the Royal Navy from 1942 to 1946.

Frederick Nippers of Llanrshen, Cardiff served in the Royal Signals from 1938 to 1946.

George North of Victoria Park, London served in the Royal Army Service Corps from 1950 to 1952.

John O'Carroll of Hove, East Sussex served in the Queen's Royal Regiment (West Surrey) from 1939 to 1946.

Arfon Parry of Caernarfon, Gwynedd served in the Royal Welch Fusiliers from 1978 to 1990.

Derek Payton of Weymouth, Dorset served in the Royal Air Force from 1954 to 1969.

John Phillips of New Longton, Preston, Lancashire served in the Royal Navy from 1939 to 1952.

Walter Platt of Eccleshall, Stafford, Staffordshire served in the Royal Air Force from 1940 to 1946.

Cyril Potter of Lytham St Annes, Lancashire served in the Royal Engineers from 1939 to 1945.

Dennis Power of Walsall, West Midlands served in the South Staffordshire Regiment, South Wales Borders and Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers between 1939 and 1946.

Joyce Price-Gibbons of Folkestone, Kent served in the Women's Auxiliary Air Force from 1942 to 1944.

Leonard Prime of Reigate, Surrey served in the Royal Engineers from 1942 to 1946.

Reginald Pursey of Southport, Merseyside served in the General Service Corps and the Royal Engineers between 1945 to 1948.

John Riddiough of Skipton, North Yorkshire served in the Royal Signals from 1957 to 1959.

June Riordan of Washington, Tyne & Wear served in the Women's Royal Naval Service from 1959 to 1961.

Frederick Robins of Kingswinford, West Midlands served in the Royal Air Force from 1946 to 1947.

John Robson of Peterlee, County Durham served in the Royal Army Service Corps from 1947 to 1962.

Elsie Roche of Hailsham, East Sussex served in the Women's Royal Naval Service from 1944 to 1946.

Alexander Ross of Tain, Ross-Shire served in the Royal Navy from 1943 to 1946.

George Sayers of Brighton served in the Royal Navy from 1939 to 1946.

John Scott of Boat of Garten, Inverness-shire served in the Royal Engineers from 1957 to 1959.

Thomas Scott of Yateley, Hampshire served in the General Service Corps, then the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers between 1947 and 1949.

John Sharman of Great Plumstead, Norwich, Norfolk served in the Royal Army Service Corps from 1951 to 1957.

Vincent Simpson of Sheffield, South Yorkshire served in the General Service Corps and Gordon Highlanders between 1942 and 1943 and then in the Royal Navy until 1946.

Leonard Smith of Tring, Hertfordshire served in the Royal Air Force as SAC from 1956 to 1958.

Reginald Smith of Bath, Avon served in the Royal Air Force from 1941 to 1946.

Geoffrey Stewart of Scotforth, Lancaster, Lancashire served in the Royal Navy from 1941 to 1948.

Gwendoline Still of Hove, East Sussex served in the

Women's Royal Naval service from 1943 to 1945.

Donald Tales of Sheffield, South Yorkshire served in the Royal Engineers from 1951 to 1955.

John Thornton of Doncaster, South Yorkshire served in the Royal Armoured Corps from 1946 to 1950.

Alfred Timms of Abingdon, Oxfordshire served in the Middle East in the Royal Army Medical Corps from 1939 to 1946.

Albert Topping of Haxby, York, served in the Royal Artillery from 1940 to 1946.

Harold Walker of Hassocks, West Sussex served as Senior Aircraftman in the Royal Air Force from 1952 to 1954.

Marie Walter of Eastbourne, East Sussex served in the Auxiliary Territorial Service from 1943 to 1946.

Victor Washer of Desborough, Kettering, Northamptonshire served in the Royal Air Force from 1943 to 1947.

Arthur Worley of Hornchurch, Essex served in the Royal Air Force from 1939 to 1946.

William Wraith of Crook, County Durham served in the Royal Air Force from 1938 to 1945.

Hugh Wynter of Redruth, Cornwall served in the Royal Air Force from 1942 to 1949.

Sybil Zuryk of Bristol, Avon served in the Women's Auxiliary Air Force from 1941 to 1943.

Ten Answers

Answers to our quiz on page 12.

- 1) The year was 1936. Around 50,000 lovers took advantage to express their sentiments including one young man who concluded with the words "And now I've asked you to be my - gosh it's cost me eight shillings and ninepence";
- 2) Kevin Keegan; 3) *The Fair Maid of Perth*;
- 4) Thailand. The name Bangrak means "Village of Love"; 5) "Love"; 6) Venus;
- 7) A battle tank, so-called because the initial design was submitted by Vickers Ltd to the War Office just before St Valentine's Day in 1938. The first models came off the line in May 1940 and over 8,000 were built before production stopped in 1944; 8) Jack Benny. 9) Jane Torville and Christopher Dean; 10) Great Ormond Street Hospital for Sick Children.

Family News

BIRTHS

Congratulations on the birth of:

Henry Daniel Williams on 15 November.

Weighing in at 8lbs, six-and-a-half ounces, he is the

son of Carl and Louise Williams of High Wycombe, Buckinghamshire and the great-grandson of Margaret Price of Droitwich Spa, Worcestershire.

Oscar on 8 June and Woodrow in October. Respectively, they are the sixth and seventh great-grandchildren of Eric and Doreen Lewis of Kenilworth, Warwickshire.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Congratulations to:

St Dunstaner Charlie Bailey of Rochester, Kent who will be 92 at the end of this month. However, since he was born on 29 February 1916, it is only the 23rd time his birthday has fallen on the day of his birth. We wish him many happy returns. Charlie served in the Rifle Brigade (Prince Consort's Own) from 1940 to 1946.

SILVER ANNIVERSARIES

Congratulations to:

Ewart and Jean Pulford of Royston, Barnsley, South Yorkshire on 27 November.

Mark and Diane Pilbeam of Nuneaton, Warwickshire on 4 December.

GOLDEN ANNIVERSARIES

Congratulations to:

Raymond and Margaret Neale of Downham Market, Norfolk on 14 December.

James and Jean Eadie of Strathclyde, Lanarkshire on 31 December.

DIAMOND ANNIVERSARIES

Congratulations to:

George and Dorothy Fuller of Reigate Hill, Surrey on 6 December.

Robert and Gladys Mark of Marton-in-Cleveland, Middlesborough, Cleveland on 20 December.

Alexander and Doreen Wallis of Blackpool, Lancashire on 20 December.

Horace and Irene Underwood of Thornton Cleveleys, Blackpool, Lancashire on 26 December.

SPECIAL ANNIVERSARIES

Congratulations to:

Arthur and Margaret Windscheffel of Norwich, Norfolk who celebrated 65 years of marriage on November 28.

Kathleen and Russell Berwick of Norwich, Norfolk who celebrated 63 years of marriage on 30 November.

Donald and Beryll Varley of Penwortham, Preston, Lancashire who celebrated 61 years of marriage on 30 November.

Frank and Winnifred Lodge of Chester-le-Street, County Durham who celebrated 61 years of marriage on 4 December.

Eric and Margaret Cartlidge of Hartlepool, Cleveland who celebrated 65 years of marriage on 5 December.

Bill and Frances Routledge of Writtle, Chelmsford, Essex who celebrated 62 years of marriage on 6 December.

John and Betty Harding of Marlow, Buckinghamshire who celebrated 61 years of marriage on 7 December.

Frederick and Libby Scott of Lancing, West Sussex who celebrated 68 years of marriage on 9 December.

Thomas and Annie Wood of Sheffield, South Yorkshire who celebrated 66 years of marriage on 13 December.

Tony and Lily Boden-Hook of Dronfield, Derbyshire who celebrated 66 years of marriage on 14 December.

William and Phyllis Tomson of Crawley, West Sussex who celebrated 61 years of marriage on 14 December.

William and Constance Faulkner of Sutton Coldfield, West Midlands who celebrated 63 years of marriage on 16 December.

Joseph and Betty Taylor of Selsey, Chichester, West Sussex who celebrated 68 years of marriage on 16 December.

Wally and Joni Winter of Whitburn, Tyne & Wear who celebrated 63 years of marriage on 18 December.

Alexander and Pauline Wilson of Felixstowe, Suffolk who celebrated 61 years of marriage on 20 December.

Henry and Ray Sheridan of Brighton who celebrated 61 years of marriage on 21 December.

Ronald and Kathleen Spathaky of Chesterton, Cambridgeshire who celebrated 70 years of marriage on 21 December.

Victor and Florence White of Tetbury, Gloucestershire who celebrated 68 years of marriage on 23 December.

Harry and Hilda Whitehouse of Short Heath, Willenhall, West Midlands who celebrated 63 years of marriage on 23 December.

Robert and Di Stewart who celebrated 64 years of marriage on 24 December.

Cyril and Iris Burton of Gosport, Hampshire who celebrated 67 years of marriage on 26 December.

Norman and Barbara Pearce of West Mersea, Essex who celebrated 66 years of marriage on 27 December.

Eric and Eva Stansfield of Northwich, Cheshire who celebrated 61 years of marriage on 28 December.

Terrence and Mary Ahern of Claygate, Esher, Surrey who celebrated 61 years of marriage on 1 January.

Frederick and Dorothy Collingwood of Newcastle-under-Lyme, Staffordshire who celebrated 64 years of marriage on 1 January.

Alfred and June Rudd of Felixstowe, Suffolk who celebrated 62 years of marriage on 1 January.

Jim and Jessie Oxley of Bexhill-on-Sea, East Sussex who celebrated 66 years of marriage on 3 January.

Arthur and Mary Rivers of Tunbridge Wells, Kent who celebrated 64 years of marriage on 5 January.

Thomas and Irene Collins of High Wycombe, Buckinghamshire who celebrated 66 years of marriage on 10 January.

Robert and Valarie Quayle of Aldwick, Bognor Regis who celebrated 66 years of marriage on 10 January.

Henry and Joan Williams of Brighton who celebrated 66 years of marriage on 10 January.

William and Dorothy Smith of Sutton Coldfield, West Midlands who celebrated 64 years of marriage on 15 January.

Veronica and Maurice Mathe of Felpham, Bognor Regis, West Sussex who celebrated 64 years of marriage on 17 January.

ACHIEVEMENTS

Congratulations to:

Bethany Pendleton on passing her Eleven Plus exam on 17 November. She is the daughter of Stephen and Michala Pendleton of Hoo, Rochester, Kent.

DEATHS

We regret to announce the death of:

Kathy Buxton on 30 November. She was the wife of John Buxton of Watchet, Somerset.

Alice Murrin on 12 December. She was the wife of Graham Murrin of Warminster, Wiltshire.

Doreen Elliott of Sowerby Bridge, West Yorkshire on 18 December. She was the wife of Army St Dunstaner Stanley Elliott.

Helen Sandler in December. She was the wife of Samuel Sandler of Mill Hill, London.

Sybil Gerard on 22 December. She was the wife of Henry Gerard of Woodbridge, Suffolk.

Dawn Rolls on 25 December. She was the wife of FEPOW St Dunstaner Robert Rolls of Mitcham, Victoria, Australia.

Marjorie Shields on 28 December. She was the wife of Royal Navy St Dunstaner William Shields of Sunderland, Tyne & Wear.

Gladys Ditcham on 6 January. She was the wife of Bill Ditcham of Hartlepool, Cleveland.

Dylis Stower of St Mellons, Cardiff, South Glamorgan on 19 November. She was the widow of Percy Stower.

Marie Adams of Hampton, Middlesex. She was the widow of Thomas Adams.

Irene Johnson of St Annes-on-Sea, Lancashire on 5 December. She was the widow of Thomas Johnson.

Margaret Abbott of Hove, East Sussex on 7 December. She was the widow of Lieutenant Colonel Bryan Abbott, OBE.

Bessie Hartley of Bewdley, Worcestershire on 9 December. She was the widow of Army St Dunstaner Douglas Hartley.

Florence Keen of Wootton Bassett, Swindon on 11 December. She was widow of Army St Dunstaner Walter Keen.

Hilda Wilkinson of Brough, Hull, East Yorkshire on 13 December. She was the widow of Christopher Wilkinson.

Margaret Hamilton of Gotham, Nottinghamshire on 20 December. She was the widow of Joseph Hamilton.

Daphne Lavery of Alcombe, Minehead, Somerset on 20 December. She was the widow of St Dunstaner Roy Lavery.

Betty Nolde of Langwarrin, Victoria, Australia on 2 January. She was the widow of FEPOW St Dunstaner Norman Nolde.

Elizabeth "Jean" Mclurg of Heathfield, Ayr, Strathclyde on 5 January. She was the daughter of late St Dunstaner William Mclurg.

Mary Wild of East Rolstone, Hewish, Western-super-Mare, Somerset. She was the widow of St Dunstaner Eli Wild.

In Memory

Thomas Guild

Royal Air Force

Thomas Edward John Guild of Haywards Heath, West Sussex died on 6 November, aged 76. He worked for a builders merchant and then as a print compositor before joining the Royal Air Force in 1949. He trained at West Kirby and RAF Melksham and then became an instrument mechanic at RAF Walton. Discharged in 1951, he returned to the print industry. Our sympathy goes to his widow Eunice, sons Peter and Philip, daughters Elaine, Carol and Jeanette, and all members of the family.

Bruce Avis

Royal Air Force

Bruce Avis of Brighton died on 8 November, aged 84. He worked for the Sussex Police Force before joining the Royal Air Force in 1941. He served in the UK and Europe before being discharged as Acting Sergeant in 1947. In civilian life, he trained as a teacher in Folkestone, Kent and subsequently became the first headmaster of Westdene School, Brighton when it opened in 1961, continuing in that role until retirement in 1982. His interests included opera, theatre, film and arts. He was the longest serving member of the Sussex Playwrights Club, having joined in 1939. With the club, he encouraged Rottingdean VAD Enid (*National Velvet*) Bagnold as she developed her play *Lottie Dundas*. He also took interest in the development of silent films in Brighton and lectured at the British Film Institute during the Eighties. He was also a lay reader at several local churches. Problems with hearing prompted him to become actively involved with the Sussex

Deaf Association and he served six years as their Chairman, becoming Vice President when he stood down.

Betty Ferguson

Women's Auxiliary Air Force

Mary Elizabeth Ferguson nee Johnston of Derham, Norfolk died on 9 November, aged 83. She studied Domestic Science in Edinburgh before joining the Women's Auxiliary Air Force in 1943. She trained as a radar operator and was posted to the Telecommunications Research Establishment at Worth Matravers near Swanage. Discharged in 1946, she worked as a secretary before becoming a wife and mother. Her interests included golf. Our sympathy goes to her sons Stewart and Duncan, niece Nell, and all of the family.

Stanley Lewis

Pioneer Corps

Stanley Wilberforce Lewis of Knowle, Bristol died on 14 November, aged 89. He joined the Somerset Light Infantry in 1939 and transferred to the Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire Light Infantry the following year. After five months, he moved to the Auxiliary Military Pioneer Corps, two weeks before it became the Pioneer Corps. In 1945, he was posted to France and then on to Germany. Demobbed in 1946, he rejoined Bristol Tramways which later became the Commercial Vehicles Department. He enjoyed sports and played chess. Our sympathy goes to his widow Violet, sons and daughters, and all the family.

Archibald Davis

Royal Engineers

Archibald William Davis of Northam, Bideford, Devon died on 15 November,

aged 98. He joined the General Service Corps in 1942 and after training in Cornwall, transferred to the Royal Engineers in 1943. He took part in an advance landing on D-Day as part of a mine clearing party. He was blown up while clearing mines, two of his comrades were killed. When he came round, his left arm was blown off but still attached and he walked back to the boats. He received no treatment for over seven hours and eventually removed the damaged part of his arm himself. Returning to the UK, seven months of treatment followed before he was fitted with an artificial arm. Discharged in 1945, he joined Bideford Council as an inspector for hackney carriages, petroleum storage and car parks. In later years, he built his own bungalow. His interests included snooker and he was a member of BLESMA. Our sympathy goes to his widow Joyce, son George and all members of the family.

George Swann

King's Regiment (Liverpool)

George Swann of Chorley, Lancashire died on 16 November, aged 73. He was a laundry worker before he joined the Loyal Regiment in 1952. He transferred to the King's Regiment (Liverpool) later that year and was posted to Hong Kong. He then carried out further training in Japan before being transferred to Seoul, Korea where he was an ammunition guard before being posted to the front line. Discharged in 1954, he returned to the laundry, but then became a driver. After working for a paper mill, he joined a wholesale butcher. He used to breed budgerigars, enjoyed gardening and was a member of Galloways. Our sympathy goes to his widow Joan, daughters, and all members of the family.

George Plumb

Royal Marines

George Herbert Plumb of Shouldham, King's Lynn, Norfolk died on 17 November, just before his 84th birthday. As a 14-year-old, he worked at a riding school and then turned to horticulture. He joined the Royal Marines in 1941 and trained at Chatham before being posted to Fort William. In 1942, he was involved in the St Nazaire raid where the Royal Marines suffered heavy casualties, but the dock was put out of action. He then deployed to North Africa with the Long Range Desert Group, attacking German supply lines. The liberation of Crete, Sicily and Italy followed. He also served in Holland France and Germany before being demobbed in 1946. In civilian life, he returned to horticulture, specialising in landscaping. Later, he worked as a taxi driver. He raced Afghan hounds and took up archery. Our sympathy goes to his sister Mary, sons Patrick, Robert and John, daughters Susan, Anne and Amanda, and all of the family.

Peter Howes

Royal Naval Volunteer Reserve

Peter Michael Howes of Orpington, Kent died on 18 November, aged 80. He was a railway worker at Waterloo prior to joining the Royal Naval Volunteer Reserve in 1945. He served in the UK and Singapore on HMS *Wildfire* and HMS *Sussex* as a Steward. Discharged in 1947, he became a decorator and later managed a television shop. He worked for the Post Office before retiring. He enjoyed DIY and gardening. Our sympathy goes to his widow Eileen, son Anthony and all members of the family.

Joseph Harris

Royal Air Force

Joseph Frederick Harris of Tavistock, Devon died on 20 November, aged 94. He worked

for the Ministry of Supply before joining the Royal Air Force in 1942. Posted to India as Leading Aircraftman, he suffered an inflammation of the eye. After treatment at Karachi, he was returned to the UK and discharged in 1946. He became a St Dunstaner in 1954 and trained in Braille, shorthand and typewriting before rejoining the Ministry of Supply. He later became a lecturer with the Air Ministry and retired in 1969. His interests included tape recording, bowling, swimming, wrought iron work and toy making. He was also passionate gardener, growing flowers and vegetables. Our sympathy goes to his daughter Glenda and all other members of the family.

John Harvey

Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve

John Richard Harvey of Sutton Coldfield, West Midlands died on 21 November, aged 91. He worked for Joseph Lucas Ltd in Birmingham and then Wesleyan & General Insurance before joining the Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve in 1939. He served with 37 and 57 Squadrons on Wellington bombers and other aircraft. Shot down in Germany after a raid on Hamburg, he was taken prisoner and held in several camps until the end of the war. Demobbed in 1946, he rejoined the insurance company. His interests include golf, tennis, driving and reading. Our sympathy goes to his son Andrew, daughter Pauline and all the family.

Mary Colville

Women's Auxiliary Air Force

Mary Elizabeth Colville, nee Holliday of Bromley, Kent died on 22 November, aged 86. She joined the Women's Auxiliary Air Force in 1940, training at West Drayton and specialising as a Teleprinter Operator. She was posted to Leighton Buzzard and

volunteered to be a Wireless Operator, later becoming a Wireless Operator Mechanic. Discharged in 1945, she worked as a secretary for the library at the University of London before studying at King's College London. After working for atlas publisher Philips, she worked in publishing, but turned to teaching in 1965. She enjoyed embroidery, was active in the University of the Third Age and Royal British Legion.

Frederick Cram

Royal Navy

Frederick Cram of Heacham, Norfolk died on 23 November, aged 91. He joined the Royal Navy in 1942, serving with the medical branch at hospitals in Colombo, Ceylon and Bombay. Discharged in 1946 as Sick Berth Petty Officer, he was a pharmacist in civilian life. His interests included railways and astronomy. Our sympathy goes to his sons Alan and Colin, daughter Anona, and all members of the family.

Dennis Busby

Royal Army Service Corps

Dennis Walter Busby of Willerby, East Yorkshire died on 24 November, aged 83. He was a fruit salesman before joining the Royal Artillery in 1943. He trained as a driver and wireless operator and was posted to 146 Heavy Ack-Ack Regiment in the UK. They then became 52 Anti Tank Regiment and took part in the D-Day landings, moving through Europe to Germany. Whilst in Germany, he produced a variety show for his own and other units. Discharged in 1947, he resumed work in the fruit trade, then became a bus conductor. He signed up again in 1950, this time with the Royal Army Service Corps (TA) and was discharged as Corporal in 1952. For a time, he sold detergent door to door but

also entertained in pubs and eventually became a theatrical agent in the Hull area. He served on Willerby Parish Council as a Liberal Democrat councillor for four years. His interests included music, playing the organ, gardening, bowls, pool, creative writing and further education. It was a moment of pride when he became the first trainee at St Dunstan's Sheffield in 2005, developing computer skills to use on an Open University course. Our sympathy goes to his widow Betty and all the family.

Kenneth Walton

Royal Air Force Police

Kenneth Walton of Macclesfield, Cheshire died on 25 November, aged 86. He joined the Royal Air Force in 1941 and became an RAF Policeman, serving in the UK, Ceylon and Burma. Discharged in 1946, he worked for the Co-op before joining the British Transport Police. He later became Secretary of the Lyme Green Settlement for Paraplegics. His interests included bowling, masonics, and supporting Manchester FC. Our sympathy goes to his widow Freda and all the family.

Frank Denny

Middlesex Regiment

Cecil Frank Denny of King's Lynn, Norfolk died on 27 November, aged 92. He joined the General Service Corps in 1942 and then transferred to the Royal Artillery. He moved to the Middlesex Regiment in 1944 and was with them during the D-Day landing at Gold Beach, fighting on to Nijmegen Bridge. Discharged in 1946, he worked as a plumber in King's Lynn throughout his working life.

Kevin Leahy

Royal Army Ordnance Corps

Kevin Leahy of Grange-over-Sands, Cumbria died on 28 November, aged 76. He joined

the Royal Army Ordnance Corps in 1949, training as a vehicle mechanic. Discharged in 1951, he joined AV Roe Aircraft before moving onto heavy engineering with Francis Shaw in Manchester. His interests included cycling, canoeing, sailing and camping. Our sympathy goes to his widow Jenny, sons Danny and Michael, daughters Collette and Clare, and all the family.

William Miles

Royal Army Service Corps

William Eirwyn Miles of Leyland, Lancashire died on 28 November, aged 86. He served in the Royal Army Service Corps from 1939 to 1940. In civilian life, he worked for the Austin Motor Company and later as an installation foreman for the Metal Box Company. His interests included walking, tennis, football and other sports. Our sympathy goes to his widow Lilian, son Richard, daughter Janice and all other members of the family.

Eileen Williams

Auxiliary Territorial Service

Eileen Emma Williams nee Gould of Harrogate, North Yorkshire died on 30 November, aged 84. She had been a St Dunstaner since 1946. She worked for the Post Office and was also a St John's Ambulance volunteer before joining the Auxiliary Territorial Service in 1943. She was discharged in 1944 after suffering a haemorrhage aggravated by war service, a condition which would lead to her eyes being excised. She trained in telephony and shorthand typing at St Dunstan's Church Stretton and later joined the switchboard at Eastham Labour Exchange. She married in 1950 and became a mother, though her husband passed away in 1959. Her interests included tandem riding, rambling, dancing, dress making and handicrafts. She was

involved with St Dunstan's tape recording group and, during the Eighties, she helped set up a talking newspaper in Harrogate. Our sympathy goes to her son Terrence and all members of the family.

Robert Coupland
East Riding Yeomanry
(Royal Armoured Corps)

Robert Coupland of Hull, Yorkshire died on 1 December, aged 91. He had been a St Dunstaner since 1944. He worked in the fish markets before joining the East Riding Yeomanry in 1938. The regiment transferred to the Royal Armoured Corps the following year. Having advanced into Northern France in August 1944, he was wounded in action, losing both eyes. After treatment at Stoke Manderville, he trained as a telephonist and capstan lathe operator at Church Stretton. Initially, he worked as a telephonist but in 1947 set up business as a wholesale fish merchant based in the docks at Hull. The rise of factory fleets and he reluctantly closed the business in 1964. His capstan lathe skills came back into play, as he joined Hawker Siddeley Aviation. He retired in 1981. His interests included carpentry and wrought iron work. He also maintained links with several ex-Service associations and was President of his ex-regimental association. Our sympathy goes to his widow Marjorie and all members of the family.

Kenneth Beckett
Royal Signals

Kenneth Frank Beckett of Bromsgrove, Worcestershire died on 2 December, aged 80. He was an engineering apprentice with the Austin Motor Company before joining the General Service Corps in 1946. After training at Catterick, he transferred to the Royal Signals. Posted to Egypt, he also

served in Jordan, Syria and Palestine before being discharged as Corporal in 1948. He then completed his apprenticeship and later set up business exporting buses abroad. His interests included animal stalking, fishing and reading. Our sympathy goes to his widow Maisie, son Kenneth, daughter Lyndsay and all members of the family.

Hubert Redgrave
Royal Air Force

Hubert James Redgrave of Banstead, Surrey died on 2 December, aged 84. He joined the Royal Air Force in 1942 and trained as an air gunner and wireless operator. After a spell as an instructor, he flew in a Liberator on convoy duty and was hit by flack from their own ships. Subsequently, he flew in Wellingtons and Lancasters on bombing raids over Germany with 626 Squadron. Discharged as Warrant Officer in 1946, he worked for Royal Doulton. He ran a local Boy's Brigade unit and other children's activities and later started a local blind club, concentrating on cane basket making. Our sympathy goes to his son and daughters and all members of the family.

George Jones
Royal Artillery

Henry George Jones of Porthcawl, Bridgend died on 6 December, aged 87. He worked in coal mines before joining the Royal Artillery in 1939. He served in North Africa and Italy. Discharged as Sergeant in 1946, he then drove buses in Bridgend until he retired. Our sympathy goes to his sons Nigel and John and all members of the family.

Norman Taylor
Reconnaissance Corps

Norman Alfred Taylor of Billingshurst, West Sussex died on 6 December, aged 94. He

worked in a sawmill and completed an apprenticeship as a cabinet maker before joining the Rifle Brigade (Prince Consort's Own) in 1940. After training at Sherborne and in Northern Ireland, he transferred to the Reconnaissance Corps in 1941 and was posted to India. He served in Syria, Persia, Calcutta, Lebanon, Bologna, Austria and Germany. Discharged in 1946, he joined the building trade and became a building maintenance supervisor. His interests included gardening and DIY. Our sympathy goes to his widow Barbara, son Peter and all members of the family.

Ted Sanderson
Royal Hampshire Regiment

Edward John Sanderson of Plymouth, Devon died on 7 December, aged 71. He joined the Devonshire Regiment for National Service in 1956, finishing that duty in the post-merger Devonshire & Dorset Regiment. He signed on as a regular and transferred to the Royal Hampshire Regiment in 1958. Discharged in 1965, he joined the Royal Fleet Auxiliary in 1966 serving as Seaman during the withdrawal from Aden. After leaving the RFA in 1968, he emigrated to Australia as a £10 settler, working as a truck driver and mineral driller. His interests included crafts such as rug making. Our sympathy goes to his friend Dot and all the family.

Stephen Long
Royal Artillery

Stephen Henry Long of Coalpool, Walsall, West Midlands died on 11 December, aged 86. He joined the Royal Artillery in 1941 and was posted to Malaya. Taken prisoner during the fall of Singapore, he was put to work on the construction of the Burma-

Siam Railway. During his captivity, he was subjected to the "water treatment" where he would be squeezed into a bamboo box for periods up to eight hours. When dragged out by Japanese soldiers, a hosepipe would be forced into his mouth before guards jumped up and down on his stomach. After being liberated and returned to the UK, he was discharged in 1948. In civilian life, he was a glazier. He was involved in campaigns to encourage compensation for Far East Prisoners of War. Our sympathy goes to his daughter Alison and all of the family.

Eric Barwell, DFC
Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve

Wing Commander Eric Gordon Barwell, DFC of Toft, Cambridge, Cambridgeshire died on 12 December, aged 94. He joined the Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve in 1938, training on Tiger Moths and Hawker Harts. Made Sergeant, he was posted to Brize Norton where he was commissioned as Pilot Officer in 1939. He joined 264 Squadron flying the Boulton Paul Defiant, a fighter plane in which the air-gunner was seated in a turret behind the pilot. The Squadron flew in defence of the evacuation from Dunkirk, with Barwell and his gunner shooting down a Messerschmitt and two Stukas. On a subsequent flight they repulsed two Heinkel bombers attempting to bomb the convoy, but sustained damage to their Defiant and had to ditch the plane in the ocean. Having destroyed six enemy aircraft during the spring and summer of 1940, he was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross in 1941. He had continuing success through the Battle of Britain, though changes in German tactics inflicted heavy casualties on his squadron. The Defiants were switched to night fighting and Barwell transferred

to 125 Squadron where he became flight commander. They re-equipped with Beaufighters and his first flight was marred when his cannon jammed. On the same day, he learned his brother Philip, Group Captain at RAF Biggin Hill, had been shot down and killed over the English Channel. Continuing with night patrols, he was mentioned in despatches and also flew in support of the Normandy landings. In August 1944, by now Acting Squadron Leader, he shot down a V-1 as it approached England. Five days later, he was awarded the Bar to his DFC. Posted to command the Fighter Interception Unit, he flew Tempest and Mustangs before being promoted to Wing Commander. He then took command of night fighter operations for the Second Tactical Air Force. After being discharged in 1945, he rejoined his family firm, Barwell Engineering which specialised in tyre retreading and products for the rubber and plastics industry. He remained with the firm until it was bought out by an American company, then devoted his retirement to the care of his wife Ruth. They toured the continent in a caravan allowing her to paint various subjects. He remained actively involved with RAFA, the British Legion and other service organisations, supporting a fundraising drive for St Dunstan's. Our sympathy goes to his son and daughters and all of the family.

Howard Edgar
Manchester Regiment

William Howard Edgar of Carlisle, Cumbria died on 15 December, aged 89. He joined the Border Regiment in 1939 and became a PT Instructor. After transferring to the Manchester Regiment in 1943, he was attached to the Officer Training School in Wrotham, Kent. Discharged as Corporal

in 1946, he resumed work as a Slater. In later years, he became a storekeeper. His interests included horse racing, football and rugby. He won several medals in swimming competitions. Our sympathy goes to his widow Joyce and all members of the family.

Charles Howes
Royal Artillery

Charles Thomas Howes of Seaford, East Sussex died on 17 December, aged 87. He was a butcher's boy before joining the Royal Artillery in 1940. He served in the UK, France, Belgium and Holland. Discharged in 1946, he worked as a greengrocer and later as a milkman. Our sympathy goes to his daughter Anne, granddaughter Danielle and all other members of the family.

Joseph McNamara
Royal Navy

Joseph McNamara of Tottington, Bury, Lancashire died on 19 December, aged 87, after being injured when he was hit by a car nine days earlier. As a young man, he was employed in a bleach works and on road maintenance for Bury Corporation before joining the Royal Navy in 1940. He served on two ships that were torpedoed and was mentioned in despatches for helping shipmates escape from their burning vessel. He was involved in the liberation of Malta and later moved to Coastal Forces, serving on MTBs. Discharged in 1946, he rejoined Bury Corporation in the engineering department. Later, he worked in the inks department of Transparent Paper. A knowledgeable gardener, he enjoyed music and supported Bury FC regularly attending matches at Gigg Lane. He was reunited with an old shipmate when he became a St Dunstaner, realising that he and George

King and served on two ships together. Our sympathy goes to his widow Laura, son and daughters and all members of the family.

Jim Glass
Royal Artillery

Michael James Glass of South Oxhey, Watford, Hertfordshire died on 20 December, aged 88. As a 14-year-old, he worked in the mining industry and later joined the Merchant Navy, travelling to the Middle East amongst other places. He joined the Royal Artillery in 1942 and served in India, Italy, Iraq and Germany. Demobbed in 1946, he worked on the railways. Our sympathy goes to his sons John, Stewart and Ian, daughter Katherine and all members of the family.

Boyd McKinlay
Scots Guards

Boyd Greer McKinlay of Cliftonville, Margate, Kent died on 23 December, aged 93. He joined the Scots Guards in 1932, serving as Guardsman in the UK and overseas. During the Second World War, he fought in Norway and North Africa. He lost his right eye when wounded in North Africa, suffering shrapnel wounds to the head. After being discharged in 1943, he worked for the National Westminster Bank. He enjoyed bowls, playing with blind clubs in Margate and at St Dunstan's. Our sympathy goes to his daughter Jean and all of the family.

Grace Chadwick
Merchant Navy

Grace Lucy Chadwick, nee Weir, of Puttenham, Guildford, Surrey died on 25 December, aged 95. Born in Cairo, she trained as a nurse in Glasgow and joined the Merchant Navy as a Nursing Sister in 1940. She served on SS Rotorua which was

evacuating children to Australia but came under repeated attack from German forces. After carrying out repairs they set out for home but came under attack once more. Torpedoed by a German submarine, the ship sank within 15 minutes, some 110 miles west of St Kilda. Twenty-one people were killed in the incident and the survivors who made it to the lifeboats were still vulnerable to attack from the U-Boat. Eventually they were rescued by the Aldersey, and Grace was later reunited with her husband in Liverpool. Discharged in 1943, she raised a family. Her interests included knitting, sewing, local politics, gardening and travel. Our sympathy goes to her daughter Susan, son John and all members of the family.

Margaret Tetlock
Women's Auxiliary Air Force

Margaret Tetlock, nee Marten, of Epsom, Surrey died on 26 December, aged 87. She served in the Women's Auxiliary Air Force from 1941 to 1945. In civilian life, she did secretarial work for various organisations. Her interests included oil painting, which she had resumed with the aid of a CCTV, and listening to audio books.

Samuel Williams
Royal Air Force

Samuel Kyffin Williams of Rhos-on-Sea, Colwyn Bay, Clwydd died on 26 December, aged 85. He joined the Royal Air Force in 1939 and trained as a Wireless Operator at Uxbridge. He was subsequently posted to Malta as Leading Aircraftman, before moving to Valetta, the Middle East and then Egypt. Returning to the UK in 1944, he was stationed at RAF Leyton Buzzard and also served at Bletchley and West Drayton. He was promoted to Corporal in 1947.

Discharged in 1949, he worked in a variety of jobs. Our sympathy goes to his daughters and all members of the family.

Albert Hedgcock
Durham Light Infantry

Albert Edward Hedgcock of Grassmoor, Chesterfield, Derbyshire died on 31 December, aged 88. He worked in the coal mines before joining the North Staffordshire Regiment in 1940. After training at Litchfield, he was posted to Northern Ireland and later to Margate. He deployed to Normandy on D+6 and then transferred to the Durham Light Infantry, fighting through to Germany. Discharged in 1945, he rejoined the colliery at Pilsley but later became a steward, working in the licensed trade. His interests included cricket and he was a member of the Normandy Veterans Association and North Staffordshire Regimental Association. Our sympathy goes to his daughter and all of the family.

Frank Hindle
Royal Air Force

Francis Hindle of Halifax, West Yorkshire died on 2 January, aged 86. He worked in a wool factory before joining the Royal Air Force in 1941. He was posted to Canada where he qualified as an aircraft mechanic. He then took part in the Salerno landings, working on Auster spotter planes, before being posted back to England to serve with a Manchester bomber squadron at RAF Finningley. Discharged in 1946, he returned to the wool factory but later joined Halifax Borough Police Force as PC80 in 1950. He was promoted to Sergeant in 1964 and retired from West Yorkshire Police in 1976. His interests included sport and he was a member of the Retired Police Officers Association. Our sympathy goes to his daughter Jacqueline and all of the family.

Kenneth Goulding
Royal Air Force

Kenneth Edgar Goulding of New Moston, Manchester died on 3 January, aged 94. He had been an apprentice type compositor for a newspaper firm in Southsea, Hampshire but later moved to Liverpool. He married in 1940, the same day that he joined the Royal Air Force. Training in Padgate, he became a Wireless Operator and was posted to 80 (Signals) Wing which was engaged in setting up "jamming stations" around the country to disrupt a radio navigation system used by German aircrews. Discharged as Corporal in 1946, he became a compositor with the Liverpool Daily Post in Wallasey. Moving to Manchester, he joined Kemsley Newspapers, publishers of the Sunday Times, Empire News and Sunday Graphic, along with regional titles which were later taken over by Thomson Newspapers. He also served five terms as a Conservative councillor for Moston ward on Manchester City Council between 1959 and 1984. While in office he served on committees dealing with Highways, Cleansing and Public Baths amongst others. He also represented the Council at Henshaws Society for the Blind and the Halle Concert Society. Our sympathy goes to his widow Anne, daughters Gwen, Ann and Julie, and all other members of the family.

Richard Sutton
Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve
Squadron Leader Richard Sutton of Bispham, Ormskirk, Lancashire died on 3 January, aged 87. He joined the Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve in 1940 and trained as a navigator and wireless operator. He was commissioned in 1943, and was mentioned in despatches. Discharged in 1946, he

joined the Ministry of Labour before going to work for an Estate Agents. Later, he became Secretary of the Lancashire Young Farmers Club. He was a keen gardener. Our sympathy goes to his widow Doris and all members of the family.

Harry Pollitt
Pioneer Corps

Harry Pollitt of Leyland, Preston, Lancashire died on 4 January, aged 87. The son of First World War St Dunstan Harold Pollitt, he had lost an eye the day he was born. He was a cashier before joining the Auxiliary Military Pioneer Corps in 1940 which duly reformed as the Pioneer Corps. Landing in Normandy on D+1, he was involved with airfield construction and pipeline laying, advancing through Belgium and Holland. Discharged in 1946, he became a teacher in Bolton eventually becoming deputy headmaster of a primary school. His interests included reading and astronomy. Our sympathy goes to his widow Phyllis, daughters Marjorie and Joyce and all members of the family.

Peter Hutchinson
Gordon Highlanders

Major Peter Hereward Hutchinson of Old Hunstanton, Norfolk died on 6 January, aged 85. He started reading History at Trinity College, Oxford but then joined the Royal Air Force in 1941. After training in Oklahoma, USA, he decided to join the Army and enlisted with the Black Watch in 1943. Serving in India and the Far East, he was commissioned in 1945 and posted to Hong Kong. He transferred to the Gordon Highlanders. Promoted to Captain in 1950, he was posted to Malaya for eight years. He was promoted to Major in 1959. After his

discharge in 1960, he worked for National Mutual Life. His interests included cricket and audio books. Our sympathy goes to his widow Kitty, son Andrew, daughter Juliet and all other members of the family.

Philip May
Royal Armoured Corps

Philip Verdun May of Nailsworth, Stroud, Gloucestershire died on 6 January, aged 91. He worked as a farmer's boy and then for an engineering firm before joining the Royal Armoured Corps in 1941. He became a driving and maintenance instructor. Discharged in 1945, he resumed engineering at Newman and Henders but later worked in local government. He was an active member of his local church and the Royal British Legion. Our sympathy goes to his sons Roger and Michael and all the family.

Charles Parsons
Royal Fusiliers

Charles Edwin Thomas Parsons of Bromley, Kent died on 8 January, aged 73. He was a fitter's mate with the gas board before serving in the Life Guards from 1952 to 1955. In civilian life, he joined the British Transport Police, and later the Ambulance Service. He joined the Royal Fusiliers (TA) in 1960 serving until 1972. His interests included copper plate writing and caravanning. Our sympathy goes to all members of the family.

John Armstrong
Royal Air Force

John Patrick Armstrong of King's Norton, Birmingham passed away, aged 87. He joined the Royal Air Force in 1940 and was discharged as Aircraftman II in 1942. In civilian life, he worked in engineering dealing with oil refining equipment. Our sympathy goes to all members of the family.

Friends buzz round to help

A BEEKEEPING St Dunstaner has won a top prize at the Isle of Wight Beekeepers Annual Honey Show. Alistair Reid of Ventnor, Isle of Wight entered two jars of medium liquid honey drawn from two hives in his garden.

"As a retired architect I have always admired the way bees build and run their communities," said Alistair who lost his sight after suffering two strokes a year ago. Since then, two friends, Terry Willis and David Cassell, and Alistair's wife Deania, have helped to keep the hives running.

"I used to go in for a lot of competitions, but this

year I only took part as sentimental trip. I knew I had some good honey so I entered two jars. I must add with the help of two friends without whose help I could not have managed.

"Imagine my surprise and delight when the entry won first prize and also the Best in Show award," he said. "Since losing my sight I have been reluctant



Photograph courtesy of the Isle of Wight County Press

to join in social activities, however since hearing of the achievements of other St Dunstaners I feel more confident to cope with outdoor pursuits."

Best greetings from Down Under!



Adelaide, Cath and Gwen Leggo in Hobart.

A ROVI from St Dunstan's Sheffield got to say "G'day" to some friends down under recently. Just prior to Christmas Cath Klaces, went to Australia and made contact with Gwen Leggo in Hobart, Tasmania. Gwen is the widow of



Pat and Alan Dean with Cath in Perth.

St Dunstaner Harry Leggo. Cath later visited St Dunstaner Alan Dean and his wife Pat in Perth. Gwen, Pat and Alan send their best wishes to all St Dunstaners around the world and wish them a Happy New Year.